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SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996



BACHELOR OF ARTS MATTHEW PARRIS MAGAZINE

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO **LE MANS** CAR 96, PAGE 5

Your' 7-day guide to TV and radio

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Judgment threatens security services

Traitor Blake can profit from memoir

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

THE Government reacted with astonishment yesterday when a High Court judge ruled that George Blake, the traitor who lives in Moscow, should be allowed to receive £90,000 in royalties from the sale of his memoirs.

The judgment by Sir Richard Scott, who headed the arms-for-Iraq inquiry, cast doubt on the Government's policy of binding members of the intelligence and security services to lifelong silence.

In giving judgment, Sir Richard, the Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery Division, said the Crown's insistence on a lifelong duty of fidelity for members of the intelligence and security service represented an interference with rights

Yesterday's ruling dis-missed the case brought by Sir Vicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, who had applied to recover the money from the written by Blake, the former Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) officer who worked for the former Soviet KGB. The book, published by Jonathan Cape in 1991, sold 17,000 of the

19,000 copies printed. The Government did not take legal action at the time of publication to stop its sale as it tried and failed to do with Spycatcher, written by Peter Wright, the former MI5

The Attorney-General did threaten legal action against Jonathan Cape, however, unless it undertook not to send royalties to Blake. The publisher agreed but the Government took legal action to recover profits from the book.

Reacting to yesterday's reserved judgment in favour of Make and Jonathan Cape, which did not defend the action, Michael Heseltine, the



Blake: treachery cost lives of British agents

Deputy Prime Minister, said he felt "depressing shock".

Speaking on BBC Radio's World At One, he said: "I just find the decision depressing. Here is a guy who took advantage of his privileged position in the intelligence to sell out British

victed traitor. He had sent people to their death who were acting on behalf of Britain's interests and he was making a profit out of it. "I think, as a layman, people will be bemused and depressed that such a decision could be taken," he said.

He said the judgment would be studied carefully before a decision was made whether to appeal. A Cabinet Office official said the judgment raised important issues about the "ability of a member of the intelligence agencies, who was found guilty of gross betrayal of his country, to profit from

his wrongdoing.

Lifelong confidentiality imposed on former members of MI6, MI5 and GCHQ, the Government's signals intelli-gence centre, became a contractual obligation in 1987, after the publication of

Spycatcher, which featured allegations about MI5 activities in the 1950s and 1960s. The obligation was enshrined in 1994. Sir Richard also presided in the Spycatcher case.

Blake, now 73 and living in relative poverty in a flat in Moscow, was responsible for the deaths of several British agents after he became a Russian spy, following his capture by North Koreans and conversion to communism.

The High Court judgment was passed on to Blake by his son Misha, who said his father was pleased.

Under the law, no criminal is allowed to profit from his crime while serving his sentence. although his family is entitled to sell his story. This happened recently in the Rosemary West case,

Despite the judgment, there emed little likelihood that Blake would receive all the paid about £35,000 as an advance. However, Benedict Birnberg, his solicitor, said the cash had been shared between his three sons in Britain and Misha, his son by his second wife, whom Blake married after escaping to Moscow from Wormwood Scrubs in

A spokeswoman for Jonathan Cape said E40,000 of the remaining £90,000 would be deducted for legal expenses. There are no plans to reprint the book. Mr Birnberg has also lodged a claim for his legal expenses over the past

two years.
While accepting the right of the Government to stop confi-dential information from being disclosed, Sir Richard said: "The Crown have not, in my judgment, either pleaded or established by evidence any Continued on page 2, col 6





Ballerina Bussell: "stunned" at political association. Milliner Treacy: success "nothing to do with the Government"

Tory achievers? Not us say Look! stars

By ANDREW PIERCE. POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Look!, the Tories' breezy good trumpet the truth about the Government's achievements, was looking distinctly frayed at the edges last night only 24 hours after its launch.

People depicted in the 16page newspaper as examples of success because of the Government rushed vesterday to dissociate themselves from the claim. Others said they would vote anything but Tory. Darcy Bussell, 27, principa ballerina at the Royal Ballet, who decorated the front page, was "one of the success stories of the Government's music and ballet scheme". In fact, her means-tested grant to attend the Royal Ballet School

was withdrawn after a year at the age of 14. Her father, a west London dentist, paid for the next three. "She is sturned to discover that she has been associated with any political party," a



friend said yesterday. Scunthorpe United football club, which according to Look! could afford to move to a new ground because of govern-ment changes in the football betting levy and grants in 1990, was turned down for help. They could not have got it more wrong. We moved in 1988," said Don Rowing, the

chief executive. Grants were given to football clubs after the Taylor



report into the Hillsborough

Sellars: "I certainly would not vote Conservative". Scunthorpe: turned down

disaster to build all-seater stadia. As we had already built one we applied retrospectively. We were turned down." Shearer Sellars, a Swindon businessman hailed as a success because of Tory economic polices, said: The Government's record is so bad I certainly could not vote Conservative. They don't de-

serve it." Mr Sellars, the founder of



Boxes and Packaging, said: "My bank manager asked me to do the interview. I never knew it was for the Tories. It's like agreeing to play in a football match and then discovering that the referee is biased. I was misquoted and misrepresented."

Milliner Phillip Treacy was surprised to have been labelled a success story in a double-page spread on the re-Continued on page 2, col 3

Israelis issue red alert to citizens abroad

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ISRAEL last night issued a red alert to all Jewish citizens travelling abroad and Jewish institutions overseas to be on guard for expected revenge attacks after Thursday's massacre of Arabs sheltering at a United Nations base in southern Lebanon.

In an unprecedented move, all Israelis leaving the country were handed leaflets advising them how to avoid attack.

The warning came as the world's most powerful leaders, meeting at the Moscow summit, threw their weight behind diplomatic efforts to halt the continued fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

John Major called for a ceasefire as did President Yeltsin who dispatched Yev-geni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, to the Levant to help to mediate an end to the fighting. He follows Washington's top Middle East expert, Dennis Ross,

Israeli sources said that any revenge attack would result in unspecified "drastic" retaliation, which some Western diplomats believe could be a pre-emptive strike at Iran.

Israel's secret Mossad, is taking seriously a broadcast last Sunday on Hezbollah's al-Manar tele-vision, which showed about 70 suicide bombers pledging to target Israel and the United States. Many senior Israeli officials believe such a spectacular attack is inevitable.

Following the Moscow sum-mit's call for a ceasefire, the American, Russian, French and Italian Foreign Ministers will meet in the Syrian capital, Damascus, today, while in Lebanon, UN officials were clearing up the carnage as the air reverberated to the sound of Israeli shells.

Tension between Israel and Iran was exacerbated by re-ports that the mullahs had ordered Hezbollah to continue their struggle against Israel and "nests of Zionism".

Letters, page 21

Referee at fault

A rugby referee failed in his duty to a teenager injured in a match, a judge ruled Page 3



The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk



Brown tackles school 'elite'

By PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

A SHAKEUP of Britain's £9 billion higher and further education system to make it relevant to the masses rather than an elite was promised last night by Gordon Brown. the Shadow Chancellor.

A Labour government would end the problem of the 16-plus "national education lottery" which excludes millions from opportunities because their families cannot afford to keep them at school,

he said in Edinburgh. It will carry out a comprehensive review of all aspects of the funding of post-16 education, including grants, loans, fees, educational maintenance allowances and the use of tax reliefs. The ambitious aim is to prevent anyone being denied post-16 education because of

And, as The Times disclosed yesterday, child benefit paid to 1.1 million young people aged 16, 17 and 18 will end, with the projected £700 million saving being transferred into train-

ing. Even before Mr Brown delivered the John Smith memorial lecture at Edinburgh University the child benefit plan had come under attack. The Child Poverty Action Group condemned the proposal to scrap the £10.40 a week payment to the mothers of children who stay on at school, asking how if the benefit was removed were people's basic needs to be met. What was needed was a wide-ranging Continued on page 2, col 3

Leading article, page 21

Botham: arriving at a reception this week

Botham to coach would-be heirs By Alan Lee

IAN BOTHAM, who this week failed in his attempt to become an England cricket selector, will, after all, be offered a role with the Test team. The most charismatic player of the past 20 years is likely to be asked to take on specific coaching duties before this summer's matches against India and Pakistan.

Although there is a general sense of relief in high places that Botham and his restless nature were not miscast on the selection panel, it is also agreed that his talents should not be wasted. David Lloyd, the new England coach, and

Michael Atherton, the captain.

are keen to enlist him. His job. I understand, could involve individual coaching of the players whose styles most closely resemble his own -Dominic Cork and Darren Gough. Both admit to having idolised him.

The approval of Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors and a man frequently criticised by Botham, will be sought this weekend but may

not be strictly necessary. Botham, 40, has done himself few favours by apparently reacting bitterly to his rejec-tion as a selector, going so far as to accuse the Test and County Cricket Board of a "dirty tricks campaign".

Yesterday, however, he de-nied the remarks attributed to him in a tabloid newspaper and repeated his enthusiasm. They only have to ring me,"

Atherton optimism, page 48

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THE TIMES ON MONDAY 30 PAGES OF SPORT INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET 16-page guide to the game with a £10,000 prize for the season's top selector LONDON MARATHON Starting on Monday - only in The Times full listing of all the finishers

Belgium 'unsafe', says asylum judge

By STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FIVE asylum seekers were saved from deportation yesterday after a judge ruled that Belgium was not a safe country for them to be sent to.

Under government policy, any asy-lum seeker who travels through Belgium on the way to Britain should be sent back there if an application fails, since refugee status can then be sought in Belgium without any danger.
But Mr Justice Hidden granted

deported to countries where they feared persecution. The ruling was one of two cases

orders to a refugee from Togo, an Iraqi and three Turkish Kurds, quashing

decisions by immigration appeal adju-

dicators refusing asylum. The judge said he was unable to agree that

Belgium was definitely safe as there were "unresolved, conflicting opinions" on whether its eight-day limit for

asylum claims was counted from the

date of first entry or the date of return.

This could mean refugees faced being

yesterday which immigration lawyers forecast could have ramifications for other asylum seekers. In the second case, Mr Justice Dyson quashed deportation orders against two Tamils who had suffered torture from Sri Lankan security forces.

The two were about to be deported to Sri Lanka because the Home Office said there was no longer any threat to Tamils from the Government. But fresh fighting began earlier this year.

The men made a new application which the Home Office rejected as a

repeat of their original application. The judge said the new circumstances meant that the applications were fresh

down the significance of the two cases but said both judgments would be studied. Officials said the Belgian case rested on a decision by adjudicators. In the second case, the judge said that no blame should be aimed at the Home Office because officials were acting on existing case law when they took their

and should have been taken as new. Last night the Home Office played

Sir Richard Scott, who ruled in favour of George Blake

Blake can profit

Continued from page I misuse by the defendant of his position as a former member

capacity."
Philip Havers, QC, repre senting the Attorney-General, had told Sir Richard that Blake had broken his trust with the SIS by writing a book that dealt with his career at SIS. known as MI6, between 1947 and 1961, his arrest and conviction for spying in 1961, his escape from jail in 1966

and his life in Russia. He said although there was no breach of confidence -Blake had already told the Russians all the secrets he knew as a spy - he still had a trust to his former SIS employers surpassed his right to free

speech, Mr Havers said. Sir Richard ruled, however, that the Crown had tried to establish a case on "what was far 100 broad a statement of of intelligence and security

He said the case had established that former members of the security or intelligence services owed the Crown a lifelong duty not to disclose confidential information. Once the information had ceased to be secret, however, the duty of confidence was extinguished.

Sir Richard said rights of free expression were safeguarded by Article 10 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Funda-

mental Freedoms From 1951 until his arrest in 1960 Blake "betrayed his country" by disclosing secret infor-Soviet Union. On May 3, 1961, he pleaded guilty to five counts of unlawfully communicating information contrary to the Official Secrets Act and was sentenced to 42 years in

Man fined £15,000 for smuggling to Iran

Terence Howe, 60, was fined £15,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,000 for snugging aircraft and helicopter pairs to Iranian government pro-curement agencies. He had admitted the offence at Winchester Crown Court

His co-accused, Dayid Hartridge, 58, an aires engineer, was fined title Equipment that included parts for three types of mile tary helicopters and the fo fighter bomber were sent i Iran by an tale of Wi company called British Ha ercraft and Marine Con tants, of which Howe was the

New Tennant

The British model Stell been selected by Chancias is winter collection. The French fashion house said the 2 year-old was "the perfect loo

Landlord guilty

A landlord accused of the manslaughter of Traces Murphy, 19, a tenant who died from carbon monoxide poisoning, has changed his plea to guilty at Sheffield Crown Court. Thomas Beedie, of Cottingham, near Hull, will be sentenced on Monday.

Murder review

The Government rejected any change to the law on murder after a 14-month review prompted by the case of Private Lee Clegg. It had sentence between murder and acquittal when a deferdant killed in self-defence or to prevent crime.

Girl saves life 🐌 A British girl on holiday in southern India saved a mas from drowning after he

broke his neck diving into the sea. Jessica Richards, 10. from Shrewsbury, held Stew art Atwell's head above water before help arrived. Mr Atwell, a Bath University sta-

Brothers detained

David and Paul Moon brothers aged 20 and 16 from Tunbridge Wells, Kent, were ordered yesterday to be detained in a young offenders institution for eight and six years respectively for causing the death of a Emily Simus. 16. by running her over in a van after a party in Bromley.

Dunblane case

A pub manager charged with stealing £1,500 collected for the Dunblane fund and £3.500 from his licensee has appeared in court. Patrick Southgate, 45, formerly of the Hope and Anchor in Poeler. east London, but now of m fixed address, was grante bail until May 3.

Labour may give 16-year-olds cash to stay at school By David Charter Education correspondent improved dramatically and the new council wanted to extend the scheme lost a High Court attempt

to stop Gillian Shephard,

the Education Secretary.

from requiring schools to

contribute to teacher training. The National Associ-

ation of Head Teachers

argued that it was further education and fell outside

the legal scope of school budgets. Mr Justice Hid-

A PIONEERING scheme that greatly increased the number of 16-year-olds staying on at school by giving them £300 grants is being explored by Labour as a way of using child benefit savings to raise educa-tion standards.

Up to 40 per cent of pupils disappeared from education and training systems in Cartory school leaving age until the means-tested grants were introduced by South Glamorgan County Council. Hundreds of extra teen-

agers were persuaded to stay on at school or college after the initiative to motivate youngsters was introduced by the council in September 1994, one of a group of local authorities analysed by Labour as a testbed for education policies.

As well as paying grants, eight schools began to offer high-quality vocational courses. run by a Cardiff den agreed with the De-partment of Education that schools had always been involved in the training of

appointed to advise students

taking up the grants.

Fitzalan High School, in inner-city Cardiff, saw the numbers staying on after 16 rise from 146 in 1993-94 to 225 in 1995-96 after the grant was introduced.

Tom Davies, director of education for Cardiff council. which took over part of the South Glamorgan area after

offered to them." he added. The council, which was part of a group of authorities studied by David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Em-

"Students on family income

support or having free school

meals were targeted during their year at school and grants

ployment Secretary, found £200,000 to fund the scheme. St David's Sixth-Form College in Cardiff has more than a hundred students - about one in eight - who receive the grant. Dominic Bryon, its principal, said: "We have a

number of students from more difficult environments and as a marginal influence this is very significant.
It can tip the balance towards staying on in educa-tion. I know of individual

cases where it has made a big households where both parents are unemployed or where there is a big problem of

Labour education strategy

Continued from page I strategy to tackle the cause of poverty and effects - not redistribution of money between

vulnerable groups. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, denounced the plan as lightweight nonsense". Mr Brown was going round and round to satisfy the various trade union movement, he said. Peter Lilley. the Social Security Secretary, said Labour would be taking £500 a year out of the pockets of a family with a 16-year-old child in education. Diane Abbott,

Labour National Executive Committee member and Leftwinger, said: "It makes no sense to shuffle money from one set of poor people to another because we are too frightened to raise taxes for the better-off." For the Liberal Democrats. Liz Lynne said abolition of child benefit for many 16-year-olds.

Mr Brown said that Labour wanted to end the position where young people got their one chance at 16 and either entered higher education or lost out and got no further

education and training. "In place of the old style, one-off equality of opportunity - the one strike and you are out opportunity - we need lifetime recurrent permanent opportunities: second, third, fourth and fifth chances that up the prospect of opportunities at any stage, at any place, The current system of postschool funding was built for the days of an elite and must now change for the world of mass education."

Leading article, page 21

Tory achievers? Not us say people in Look!

Continued from page I emergence of the British fashion industry — thanks to the support of Michael Heseltine. "It's nothing to do with the Government if I am successful." he said yesterday.

"Michael Heseltine's support is a public relations stunt. There is great creativity in British fashion but no money around for people to buy our designs. We have to sell them abroad." Look! claims the relaxation in licensing laws had led to a renaissance for the British pub. A spokesman for the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association said: "Since 1979 the amount of beer sold in pubs has fallen by 25 per cent and about 5,000 pubs have closed." Under the Tories "We are a nation of happy and sophisticated shopkeepers". The British Retail Consortium said: "In the last 15 years the number of retail units has fallen from 350,000 to 300,000."

director of communications, and architect of the publication, says he wrote to the hapless victims saying: "The press is much criticised for misquoting people and giving misleading information. In the interests of good journalism and accuracy I am sending you a copy of the story in which you feature."

John Major declared Look! was being produced to "give the people the True facts about the economy, the True

True facts about the future". Conservative Central Office said yesterday that 100,000 copies of the tabloid would still be distributed to party members this weekend. "We never suggested the people were paidup Tories. They are success stories," it

John Prescott, Labour's deputy lead-er, was gleeful. "The ballerina has done a pirouette and run a mile."

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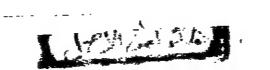


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Judge blames the referee for young rugby player's paralysing injury

JOHN GOODBODY AND DAVID HANDS

A RUGBY referee was yesterday said by a judge to have failed in his duty to a 17-yearold player who broke his neck when a scrummage collapsed. Ben Smoldon, now 21, had sued the official, Michael Noian, for El million.

Mr Smoldon was a promising player aiming for a place in his county under-19 squad when he was paralysed from the shoulders down during a same between Sutton Cold-field and Burton-on-Trent Colts in October 1991. His solicitor, Terry Lee, said his client was "shocked with joy" by the result. The amount of damages will be set later.

Yew Tennant

Mr Smoldon had also sued an opposing forward who was accused of bringing down the scrum in which he was injured. Thomas Whitworth, now 22, was cleared of

Mr Justice Curtis said in the High Court the referee failed in his duty to the player and fell "below the level of reasonable competence". But "no responsible player and no responsible referee had anything to fear" from his ruling.

However, Edward Grayson, a barrister and author of Sport and the Law, said that the consequences of the judg-ment were "illimitable". It could open the floodgates for more legal actions.

Refereeing a physical contact sport becomes a risky activity. It means that referees have got to observe the laws of the game meticulously and keep strict control, because Therwise they could be challenged in court."

The referee was backed by. the Rugby Football Union. which is trying to recruit new referees. Steve Griffiths of the RFU said: "We are concerned about the consequences of the judgment, both for the playing reeing of the game: "----

Mr Smoldon, who the acci-



Nolan: failed to exercise reasonable care and skill

movement in his arms, will use the damages he receives to adapt his home in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, to give him more independence.

concentrate on rebuilding his life. He is studying leisure management in Birmingham and sits his finals in June. "Unfortunately because of the case my studies have taken a back seat but I am going to make the most out of my life." He is considering a career in accountancy or rugby admin-istration. Despite his injury, he said: "I still love the game and enjoy watching it." He coaches Sutton Coldfield Colts, the team he was representing when he was hurt.

He added: "I do not want to discourage any player from playing rugby. I hope this case is one step towards making the game safer. I will continue to support the game for the rest of my life."

In his judgment Mr Justice Curtis said the referee failed to exercise "reasonable care and skill" to prevent the scrummages collapsing or to instruct the players. There had been an failed scrums - at least 20 but Mr Nolan, 54, a member

Referees, paid a lack of atten-tion. Although Mr Smoldon accepted a degree of risk by playing rugby, he deserved protection from the referee.

The judge said the injury, one of several in the game, was forseeable. He said the dangers of neck injuries, to young players in particular. were well known to referees. Where there was a known risk, "I see nothing objectionable in the law seeking to prevent and protect rugby players from unnecessary and potentially highly dangerous, if not lethal, aspects of the game by the imposition of a

He emphasised that because the rules were different for juniors, nothing he said applied to senior or international rugby matches.

After the case Mr Nolan, of Tamworth, Staffordshire, who was covered by insurance, declined to comment.

Mr Grayson, president of the British Association for Sport and the Law, said that in the light of the judgment referees, umpires, sporting organisations and schools would have to make certain they were fully insured, "It is an inevitably significant judgment because the referee's responsibility to the laws of the game must always be subject to the overriding principle that the law of the land doesn't stop at the touchline."

A spokesman for Rugby League said: "This decision will have ramifications for all sport in the UK, however modest and humble. We are talking about the local squash chub as well."

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said the judg-ment would be viewed with the deepest concern by everyone who undertakes to referee junior rugby". Much of the refereeing in schools was done by whoever volunteers to pick



Ben Smoldon after his victory yesterday: "I'm going to make the most of my life"

Rapist escaped from open jail to attack again

BY JOANNA BALE

A JUDGE criticised the Prison Service yesterday for moving a rapist to an open jail from which he escaped to attack

Judge John Curran said a decision to send Stephen Mills to Leyhill open prison in Gloucestershire from Bristol jail, four years into a 12-year sentence for rape, was a matter of disquiet, Mills escaped and sexually assaulted a 37-year-old woman after tying her up, punching her in the face and threatening to kill

At Cardiff Crown Court yesterday, the judge remand-ed Mills, 29, for psychiatric reports and told him he was considering imprisoning him for life. The judge said: "It is a matter of disquiet that a man convicted of crimes of such gravity should be in an open prison with the consequences

which followed. Mills is a real and continuing danger to women and I am considering passing an indeterminate sentence. While on the run for 15

months from Leyhill. Mills used a false passport to travel around Italy. France and the United States. He returned to Britain and met a divorcée at a nightelub in Wales. They danced together for most of the evening. When he went back to her home Mills indecently assaulted her and threatened to kill her.

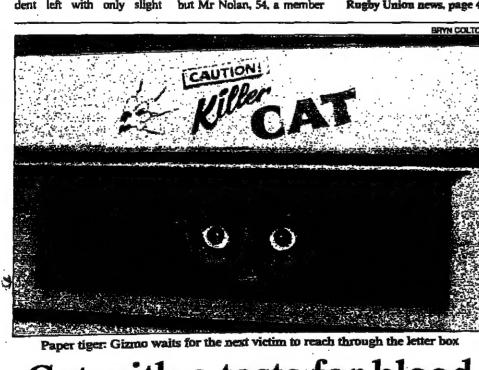
After he was convicted vesterday of the attack, the woman joined the judge and police in condemning the decision to send Mills to the open prison. She said: "It was norrifying to think that I met a rapist on the run at a dance. He should never be free to attack women again. I thought my life was over."

Detective Inspector Bill Ware said: This woman was lucky to get out of her ordeal alive. This man is very dangerous and should never be allowed near women again It's crazy for a man like that to be sent to an open prison where he can just walk out."

The court was told that Mills had earlier served a 21month sentence passed at Taunton Crown Court after attacking a 21-year-old woman in her flat at Yeovil while armed with a sheath knife. He was jailed for 12 years by Truro Crown Court in Cornwall for rape and a serious sexual assault after breaking into a house in Bude three days before Christmas 1988.

Meirion Davies, for the presecution, told the judge: The prison authorities say the system has now been changed and it is now unlikely that a man like this would end up in an open prison."

The Home Office said: There have been lots of changes in risk assessment and things are far more stringent now. It is now unlikely that someone would be sent to an open prison so soon into



Cat with a taste for blood puts postmen in a flap

POSTMEN and paperboys in a quiet market town are living in fear — of a black cat called Gizmo that has savaged the fingers of six postmen pushing letters through the front door in the past year.

Two paperboys, two parce courier men and several locals delivering junk mail and leaflets have also been scratched and cut by Gizmo's razor-sharp teeth and claws. Royal Mail chiefs have now

threatened to stop delivering letters to Gizmo's owners. Mick and Daphne Smith-Howell, unless they tame their two-year-old pet. The stern warning was prompted by Gizmo's latest attack on a relief postman who was unaware of the danger burking behind the front door in

Beccles, Suffolk. The victim, who was on Gizmo's round for the first time, was left with scratched and bleeding fingers. Mr Smith-Howell, 42, a builder, and his wife believe Gizmo is particularly vicious when they are out of their threebedroom, end-terrace house.

Gizmo, named after a friendly creature in the film Gremlins, is no longer allowed out of the house in case it attacks a child. Mr



Gizmo: stern warning

ally sits on the bottom step of the stairs and as soon as she sees anyone approaching the door she's ready to pounce. She moves swiftly and silently so people do not realise she is there until she has grabbed their fingers.

Unfortunately she is very territorial and likes to guard the house. She hangs on to the window seal under the letterbox and tries to pull the letters through, but I don't think she means to hurt anyone."

After the first two attacks. Mr Smith-Howell put up the sign "Caution! Killer cat" on the front door, but two couners from the White Arrow Express delivery firm were still scratched on consecutive days when they tried to push parcel delivery notes through the door. Bob Martin, manager of White Arrow's Norwich depot, telephoned to ask if

neighbour in future. He said: There is one certain way to

strangling it."
Mr Smith-Howell said: We are still trying to decide what to do, but we do not want to use a letterbox cage in case Gizmo gets her claws caught and hurts herself. It is a shame she keeps attacking postmen because she is really a very nice, loving cat. If people come into our house she goes up and sniffs them and purrs - although she

sometimes hisses as well." Paul Harris, a Royal Mail number of our postmen have been hurt and we do not consider these attacks a laughing matter. A cage over the letterbox does not seem an unreasonable request and would easily sort out the problem. We can stop delivering to an address if we feel our staff are in danger. Most animal attacks involve dogs, but others have involved cats,

geese and even a turkey." Mr Harris said there were almost 6.000 attacks by animals on Britain's 80,000 postmen and women last year an increase of a third on the 4,105 reported in 1977.

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ACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Search at the shops for a volunteer to save cancer girl



Charlotte: may die in weeks

AND JEREMY LAURANCE

THE parents of a six-year-old leukaemia victim are launching a new appeal for a bone-marrow donor to save her life. Charlotte Schroder may die within weeks unless a matching volunteer can be found in a series of blood tests being organised at shopping cen-

tres and churches next week. Ellen Schroder, 38, and her husband Tim. 44, of the wealthy banking family, have been tested along with their near relations. but did not match her bonemarrow type. A search through 25 million potential donors on registers in America, Australia

has spent her childhood in and out of hospital after becoming ill at the age of 18 months. The last stage of a two-year course of chemotherapy, which starts on Monday, has just a 20 per cent chance of working. If a donor is found, her chances of survival go up to 40-50 per cent.

'Charlotte has rare bone marrow but I believe there must be a donor out there somewhere," said Mrs Schroder, who gave up her job as an investment banker at Kleinwort Benson to care for her daughter, and has been raising funds for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust register. *Charlotte is fantastic, she never

and Europe also failed. Charlotte complains about her treatment or her illness. She thinks that feeling a bit sick all the time is just a normal part of life. She was upset when her hair fell out during the first session of chemotherapy but it grew back and she's now very proud of it."

A donor needs to have at least five out of six characteristics which match Charlotte's white blood cells. Her parents, fouryear-old brother Ben, and baby sister Anna, II months, have just three out of six.

With support from the actor Bob Hoskins, a neighbour and friend in Hampstead, north London, the Schroders are launching the Campaign Charlotte appeal for more British donors to come forward, which will broaden the Nolan register for all sufferers.

From Monday, four sites will be available at shopping centres and churches across London where donors can have a simple blood test. A telephone line has been set up for inquiries from across the

There are 260,000 donors on register, which does not receive any direct financial support from the Department of Health. Of the 6,000 people awaiting bone marrow transfusions in Britain, two thirds are children.

Mrs Schroder said: "It's so difficult to think of life without her. Christmas and hirthdays are the worst because you can't help thinking she may not be around for another one.

Mrs Schroder and her husband, a director of the Bond Street antiques dealer Partridge's, try to keep their spirits high for the sake of the whole family: "People are by nature optimists and I can't let myself imagine that she isn't going to make it.

"I have a healthy respect now for the cancer. It's a monster. I just feel there has to be something that I can do to get her through it and this appeal is one way to help

A sample of blood taken from baby Anna's umbilical cord (a

is being stored at a blood bank. Although it is only a 3/6 match. doctors may be forced to go ahead and perform the transplant in the hope that the cord blood's immaturty will minimise rejection problems. It is, however, a

Bache is left wido

Biologist C

of trying:

Victoria Calder was tring twice Professor Liond, which there &

The Swan Hellen

cruise, 7th-19th

company to Super Moderate.

Elegan dining and original in

Suest specifications ering court time

Plus one unwine

Correspondent John Gradiane.

0171 800

opportunity to enjoy a few rubber with fourther parties.

Facility of the second

Don't pass t

risky strategy.

☐ The walk-in clinics open next week are: Brent Cross Centre, Monday to Friday 12-8, Saturday 9-6, Sunday 11-5; Whiteleys Centre, Bayswater, Thursday to Sunday 12-4; St Botolph's Church, Bishopsgate, Monday to Friday 12-3; St James Church, Piccadilly, Monday to Friday 12-3. Outside London, call 0800 717717 to find out how to be tested.

Mechanical heart man looks forward to tango

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE race to develop a mechanical heart that will end the need for human transplants passed a milestone yesterday. The latest recipient of the device pedalled an exercise bicycle and said he was looking forward to danc-

ing the tango.
Ralph Lawrence, a retired finance manager aged 65, who had his electrically driven heart implanted in his abdomen a month ago, said he felt marvellous. "The whole idea of having this operation was so that I could get back to dancing. I couldn't envisage doing the tango or the rumba

Mr Lawrence is the latest patient to be fitted with a permanent replacement for his natural heart in the search for alternatives to human heart transplants. He is expected to be fit enough to go Drinking tea 'lowers stroke risk'

SCIENCE EDITOR

DRINKING tea can protect

against stroke, a study in The

Netherlands has shown. In a

15-year survey of more than

550 men, those who drapk the

most tea reduced their risk of

stroke by two thirds com-

pared with those who drank

home next week. There is a worldwide shortage of donor hearts and American scientists have estimated that between 70.000 and 140.000 people worldwide could benefit from artificial hearts.

Surgeons at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, where the operation on Mr Lawrence was performed on March 20, are racing with rival researchers seeking to overcome the organ shortage with xenografts, animal to human transplants. Scientists at Imutran, the Cambridge biotechnology company, are planning the first experiments in humans this year.

Mr Lawrence, a non-smoker from Kenilworth, Warwickshire, is the second patient to receive an artificial heart at the John Radcliffe. The first, Abel Goodman, a London film producer aged 65, died last

group of men who live in the

town of Zutphen. The food

they cat and the diseases they

suffer have been followed by

researchers from the Dutch

National Institute of Public

Health and Environmental

During that period, there

were 42 strokes among 552

men enrolled in the study. An

analysis of the first 15 years

Protection since 1970.

term dietary analysis of a chives of Internal Medicine effect against stroke.

month. He survived five months with the device but was never well enough to leave hospital. Mr Lawrence had a heart

attack 25 years ago and had a pacemaker fitted last Decem-ber as his health deteriorated. He had been turned down for a heart transplant because of his age, the poor state of his kidneys and the fact that he is

Sitting beside his wife Jean. with whom he celebrated his 42nd wedding anniversary yesterday, he said: "I was determined to go ahead. My health was deteriorating, I was getting breathless and I couldn't sleep. I could only walk a few hundred yards and I'd had it. I wasn't frightened of the operation. I am just fortunate to have been offered this wonderful chance."

Mrs Lawrence, holding her

by a team led by Dr Sirving

Keli. It shows that the men

most likely to have strokes

were those with low intakes

of flavonoids. These chemi-

cals are found in fruit and

vegetables but by far the

largest source is tea, which

that flavonoids reduced the

risk of heart disease. This is

Earlier studies have shown

provided 70 per cent.

husband's hand, said: "I had to tell the family what the risks were and that we could lose him now." However, she added: "If he's got this far in this short time I can't see why he

shouldn't go on improving." Mr Lawrence, who retired from the Rover car company in 1989, said he had been determined that Mr Goodman's death a few days after he received his own device should not throw him into a

"I feel money has got to be found for this type of opera-tion. I am a pioneer. I hope out of this will come the cash to carry on the work and that it will become a common operation like a heart bypass."

Steven Westaby, the consultant cardiac surgeon, paid tribute to Mr Lawrence's courage and said he was expected to go home next week. He said that mechanical hearts offered a better alternative to human transplants than xenografts using animal hearts. He displayed a mechanical

heart he is working on with Dr Robert Jarvik, an American pioneer. It is a pump the size of a thumb, small enough to be implanted inside the heart. "Here for the first time, i

think we have an artificial heart suitable for all ages. The most exciting thing for me is that it can be used in children and there is one the size of a babies."



Heart patient Ralph Lawrence, Stephen Westaby and Jean Lawrence yesterday

Britain is criticised over Pill scare

BY NICK NUITALL

EUROPE's medicines safety. body refused yesterday to back Britain's stand on the risk from new contraceptive pills. The British alert has led to an estimated 3,000 abortions after women stopped taking the Pill.

The Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products said: there was insufficient evidence. to issue new warnings to women over seven brands of Pills. The announcement leaves Britain isolated over itsstand on so-called third-generation Pills.

The Department of Health issued a public alert last. October, claiming that there was an increased risk of thrombosis among women taking the newer Pills. The announcement 'caused somewomen to stop taking the Pill altogether in mid-cycle, leading to unwanted pregnancies. But the European agency said there were too many uncertainties in the three studies used by the Government to justify its alert.

Several reasons could explain why the studies, includng one funded by the World Health Organisation, might have found a small increased risk of thrombosis. Doctors, believing the new Pills were safer, might have been less rigorous in assessing the risks. was calling for more research.



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Bachelor farmer is left £10m by widowed aunt

MININE ROAV APRILA

A RECLUSIVE farmer has been left almost \$10 million by the aunt who brought him up. Richard Oatley, 58, said: 1 suppose it's a bit like winning the Lottery, but I'll still carry on with the form — and I might even still play the Lottery once in a while.

Mr Oatley, a bachelor, in-herits £9,998,787 from Ida Fussell, the widow of a brewery owner, who died in October, aged 88. She married Percy Fussell after acting as his housekeeper for 21 years and the couple had looked after Mr Oatley since he was seven. He still lives in the same house. All Mr Oatley would say of his parents was that they had died within the past 25 years and that he did not know why he was brought up by the Fussells.

Most of the legacy is in stocks and shares. Mr Oatley. of Rode, Somerset, said: "I've had this farm for 30 years now. I don't feel like a millionaire. If I wake up in the morning and it's fine, I feel good, and if it's not I don't. That will never change, I couldn't walk away and icave the animals. They need to be cared for and looked after there's no one else to do it.

"it's early days, but I expect



Ida Fussell: married founder of brewery

shares as I don't really know much about that. Ida died after she failed to recover from a hip-replacement operation. I miss her dearly. I loved her an awful lot."

A villager said: "I've lived here for the last 30 years and 1 don't think I've spoken more than a duzen words to him in that time. I can't see this changing him. He's a very quiet, unassuming man. He keeps himself to himself and works very hard on his farm."

Mr Oatley employs one part-time worker to help him to fatten calves for sale. He said that the BSE scare had

improving. His house, in the centre of the village, is a few yards from the derelict brewcry. The farm is centred on three buildings on the edge of the village. Mr Oatley said that he would not change his D-registered Ford Sapphire. The Fussell commercial em-

pire was founded in 1744 as olmaking and iron-smelting businesses in Frome, Mells and Rode. It later diversified into garden furniture and brewing, Mr Fussell, who died in 1964, set up the brewery in Rode with his brothers Henry and Reginald, shortly before the First World War. Mr Oatley said: "I went to live with my aunt and uncle when I was seven and after I left school I did an apprenticeship in farming."

The brewery was recently sold to Bass. Relatives of Henry Fussell have received little of the business's profits. But his daughter, Barbara Wheeler, said the situation had been accepted for many years by her side of the family. It's just one of those things. Although Ida's name was Fussell she only had maternal connections with the family and we saw her rarely. She married my uncle after 21 years of being his housekeeper and looked after him well when he was ill."



Richard Oatley will go on running his farm. "I don't feel like a millionaire"

Nurses ask court to stop rapist's return to wards

A LEGAL challenge has been mounted by the Royal College of Nursing to stop a convicted rapist from returning to the

Yuen How Choy, who was convicted of raping a former patient in 1983 when he posed as a community psychiatric nurse to gain entry to her home, was restored last month to the professional register by the United Kingdom Central Council, the regulatory body for nurses.

Mr Choy, 50, a father of two, was given two years' imprisonment suspended for 12 months and struck off the register in 1986. In 1972 he received two years' probation for administering a sedative to a patient in order to have sex

The Royal College of Nursing, which says it has been inundated with complaints from nurses, is to seek a iudicial review of the decision by the UKCC to reinstate him. The college said: "We believe that it is against the public interest for this nurse to be restored to the register because it is absolutely vital that patients can have complete confidence in the nursing profession. In this case it is very clear that the nurse totally abused his position and betraved his trust."

Mr Choy, who was a staff nurse for Brighton Health Authority when he raped a former in-patient at a psychiatric hospital where he had previously worked, has been employed as a care assistant on an occasional shift basis since last October at the Forest Lodge nursing home near Uckfield, East Sussex. He did not need to be on the nursing register for that post, but his subsequent reinstatement means he can now apply for

work as a qualified nurse. Mr Choy's successful application for reinstatement, in March, came nine months after a previous application

Carol Dilley, nursing director at Forest Lodge, said: "This nurse has been on the panel of care assistants for the past five months and, when working with us, he has carried out his work with care and professionalism."

East Sussex Health Authority, which inspects and registers Forest Lodge, a home for elderly and mentally ill patients, knew of Mr Chow's record and employment, and established that there was no bar to his employment as a care assistant.

The college said: "This home has made a judgment that this man was trustworthy. We disagree." It expects the case, applying for a judicial review, to go before a High Court judge by the end

Biologist cleared of trying to kill her former lover

FROM JOHN CAMPBELL IN CHRISTCHURCH

poisoning her former lover, the world-renowned British botanist Professor David Lloyd, has been cleared by a jury in New Zealand of attempted murder.

Professor Lloyd was admit-ted to hospital with a mystery illness in December 1992. Since then the "Poison professor, case" has held New Zeacame to a sensational end in Christchurch as, for the first time in New Zealand history. a television network was allowed to broadcast live the announcement of a not guilty

Victoria Calder, 46, biologist, was charged with attempted murder and poisoning. The first trial ended in a hung jury. The second trial lasted seven weeks. Throughout both trials the Crown's case against Miss Calder was based on the concept of a scorned woman wreaking re-

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When Professor Lloyd left

A WOMAN accused of her for a younger woman after a seven-year relationship, Miss Calder embarked on a campaign of retribution. She cut up his clothes, stuck an abusive banner to his car and spread dog excrement over his

Then Professor Lloyd suddenly became so ill that doctors feared that he would die. The Crown claimed he had with acrylamide monomer which she obtained from Her lawyer, Judith Professor Lloyd had been the

victim of a post-viral infection. The Crown case faltered because having based its case on the claim that Miss Calder used acrylamide, it was unable to prove that the professor had suffered acrylamide poisoning.
Professor Lloyd is now blind

and paralysed. He also suffers recurring bouts of pneumonia. Since his illness he has married the Canadian scientist for whom he left Miss Calder.



Victoria Calder was tried twice for trying to poison Professor Lloyd, who is now blind and paralysed

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TEMPS VATI RUAY APRIL 2016

Quiet 70th birthday for Queen of celebrations



Now and then: the Queen earlier this month and, below, on Coronation Day



THE QUEEN will celebrate her 70th birthday tomorrow with her immediate family and close friends. The Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York are conspicuously absent from the guest list.

It has been kept deliberately low-key at her own request. The century's longest-reigning monarch believes there have been enough celebrations in the recent past, and that there is too much unfinished business in the immediate future.

The day begins with a family visit to morning service at Sandringham, and ends with an intimate dinner at Windsor Castle to be attended by immediate relatives including Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and Princess Margaret. The Duke of York will be away on a naval exercise, and the workaholic Princess Royal will be at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards and dinner in London.

by a musical gala at the Royal Opera House, n,000 schoolchildren singing outside Buck-ingham Palace, and a summer ball at Windsor for 700 guests. There may be other and better times to come when the Queen will feel more inclined to let the nation share in celebrating the milestones of her life and reign. There is no official stamp from the Royal Mail, although there have been commemorative issues from the Falkland Islands. St

This birthday contrasts with her 60th, which was marked

British Antarctic Territory, and Australia. As always on the sovereign's birthday, there will be a 62gun salute at the Tower of London and another of 41 guns in Hyde Park. Because the birthday falls this year on a Sunday, the guns are de-

Helena, Tristan da Cunha, the

layed until Monday.

The Queen believes that





On the day of her engagement to Prince Philip of Greece in 1947, and training for war transport duties

there has been a surfeit of celebrations recently, beginning with the 40th anniversary of her accession in 1992. proceeding through the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings in 1994, and culminating in VE and VJ-Day commemorations last year, in which the Queen played a central part, drawing hundreds of thousands of onlookers to watch her Buckingham Palace balcony appearance flanked by her mother and

sister. She also feels that the time is not right to invite public adulation.

This week's granting of a decree nisi to the Duke of York may have saddened the Queen, but it will also have brought her a considerable degree of relief that one of her sons' failed marriages has been brought to a decent and tidy conclusion. The other remains unresolved. She feels strongly that it continues to erode the public's esteem of

the monarchy. When it is concluded, she may feel more like celebrating.

There will be no shortage of opportunity. Next year sees her golden wedding anniversary; the year 2000 will ignite countless millennium parties; and 2002 will mark the golden jubilee of her reign. The last time Britain enjoyed such a jubilee was in 1887, when the bunting came out for Victoria.

The Queen is not without reasons for celebrating her

70th birthday. She is only the sixth reigning monarch since the Norman Conquest to reach such an age, along with George II, George III, William IV. Victoria and George V. She is already the sixth longest reigning monarch since 1066. beaten by Henry III (56 years), Edward III (50), George III (59). Victoria (63) and her namesake Elizabeth I. whose

Leading article, page 21

11 years she now equals.

MILESTONES ALONG THE ROAD TO BECOMING HEAD OF OUR GREAT IMPERIAL FAMILY

THE Queen was born at 2.40am on April 21, 1926, at 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair, home of her mother's parents, the Earl and Countess of Strathmore.

☐ She is the fortieth monarch since William the Conqueror. ☐ She was christened Elizabeth

Alexandra Mary at the Buckingham Palace chapel on May 29, 1926. At birth, she stood third in line to the throne after Edward, Prince of

Wales (later Edward VIII) and her father, the Duke of York, who became George VI.

☐ The family moved into Buckingham Palace on February 15, 1937. ☐ She spent most of the war years at Windsor Castle and made her first radio broadcast on October 13, 1940, at the age of 14, on Children's Hour. At the age of 18, in February 1945, she joined the Auxiliary Transport Service as Second Subaltern Eliza-

beth Windsor, qualifying later as a

☐ in 1939, she met her third cousin. Prince Philip of Greece, and by 1944. when she was still only 18, it was clear she was in love with him. On her 21st birthday she said in a radio broadcast from Cape Town: 'My whole life, whether it be long or

short, shall be devoted to your ser-

vice and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

engaged on July 10, 1947, and married on November 20.

Their first child, Charles, was born in 1948, followed by Anne in 1950, Andrew in 1960 and Edward in 1964. ☐ Early in the morning of February

6, 1952, the King died.

□ Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen on February 8 and was crowned at

Westminster Abbey on June 2, 1953.

☐ She and Prince Philip were



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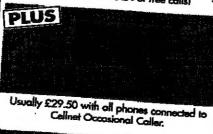
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Joe Kennedy was one of the ogres of 20th century America, yet his crowning achievement was to turn a son he despised into a national icon who is remembered whenever the US elects a president

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Election fears force ministers to drop road sell-off scheme

By Jonathan Prynn, transport correspondent

MINISTERS have scrapped fuel duties, in-car charging plans to privatise the entire main road network after pressure from from Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party

The plans were to be included in the Government's longawaited transport policy document, which will be published by Sir George Young. the Transport Secretary, later this month or in early May. drivers for using the roads was seen as politically unacceptable so near to an election.

Although the charges would release new funds for investment in roads they could too easily be presented as a tax on drivers," a government

source said. The original draft of the document proposed creating regional road corporations to manage and maintain motorways and trunk roads in their areas on a commercial basis. Motorists would have been charged through additional

devices or the sale of windscreen discs. Part of the money would have been used to improve and expanding the network with the rest going to the Treasury. The corporations would initially have been owned by the Government. with a long-term aim of selling them to private operators.

The plans represented the Government's "big idea" for tackling Britain's growing transport problems after the great debate initiated by Dr Mawhinney in 1994 when he was Transport Secretary. Sir George is an enthusiastic supporter of making motorists pay more towards the huge costs to society of accidents, congestion and pollution. However, asking drivers, par-ticularly middle-class Tory voters, to pay again for the roads they fund through in-come taxes and petrol duties is regarded as political suicide at this stage of the electoral cycle.

Dropping the plans has

stripped the policy document of most of its original content. The published version will instead concentrate mainly on the past achievements of the Government's transport policy, notably privatisation of most of the rail industry. The status of the document, which may come in the form of a Green Paper, has been down-graded and will probably be slipped out as a written parliamentary answer with little

fanfare. The Department of Transport is now unlikely to announce any big new policy initiatives until after the election and officials believe that they will do no more than "tread water" for the next 12

The Government's roads programme has almost halted because of Treasury-imposed cuts over the past two years. Only a handful of major new roads, including the Newbury bypass, will be started this financial year.



Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and the borrowed car in which he arrived for a speaking engagement in Manchester yesterday. He seemed unaware that the number plate, transformed into a tax-cutting slogan by means of a well-placed bolt, was illegal. Misrepresenting the number is punishable by a fine of up to £1,000

Labour demands faster **justice**

By Stewart Tendler

EVENING and weekend court sittings could be used to cut the number of prisoners held for long periods on remand, according to a Labour report published today.

Extra sittings could be used to deal with short cases or remands where the courts are waiting for reports before sentencing. Judges could also speed the process by greater scrutiny of requests for ad-journments and by disallow-ing lawyers' costs if the court's time has been wasted. Labour says that the changes would

not require legislation. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said: "Lengthy delays in dealing with remand prisoners are placing increasing pressure adding to the suffering of both victim and defendant."

The report shows that the number of untried people in prison rose from 600 to 1,500 in the ten years to 1994.

child molesters, says MP BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

Castrate

chestnut Tholds key to crunch

factor

A TORY MP called for the castration of paedophiles yesterday as a crackdown on the organisers of "sex tourism" trips to the Far East was passed by the Commons.

A Bill aimed at curbing holiday tours for paedophiles to countries such as Thailand was given a third reading and now goes to the Lords. It imposes tough sentences for inciting" people to have sex with children abroad.

But David Evans, Tory MP for Welwyn Hatfield, said that laws must be tightened even further to make the punish ment fit the crime. Why not castrate them straight away and then the taxpayer would not have to foot the bill? There would be more room in prisons for other offenders."

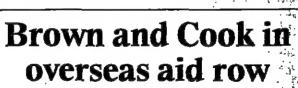
Many campaigners against sex tourism" want offenders to be prosecuted in the British courts for crimes committed abroad. David Maclean, the Home Office Minister, told MPs that the Government was looking at the issue but hadserious doubts about the effect. tiveness of such action.

"I don't want the House to be under the impression that all we've got to do is make a couple of tweaks to the law here or there. Britain can then have extra-territorial jurisdiction and there will be a queue-of pervents being prosecuted in the British courts who will all be found guilty and we will: stamp out the problem. It will not work like that, though we all wish to God it would.

John Marshall, Tory MP for Hendon South, who intro-duced the Bill, said it would not stop child molesters. But he added: "What we can do is ensure that those individuals. in this country who were seeking to make a business out of encouraging other people to molest children will find it



Evans: punishment should fit the crime



By Andrew Pierce, Political correspondent

TONY BLAIR'S senior lieutentants. Gordon Brown and Robin Cook, are locked in a battle over whether Labour should commit itself to spending more on overseas aid.

The Labour leader may have to arbitrate if the struggle between his Shadow Chancellor and Shadow Foreign Secretary cunnot be resolved at a

policy meeting on Monday. Mr Cook is fighting Mr Brown's determination to stop Labour making any spending commitments that cannot be paid for by pre-announced savings. They will argue their case about the £2.15 billion aid budget at Monday's joint poliCabinet and National Execu-

tive Committeee. Mr Cook is seen by colleagues as fighting to maintain Labour's traditional support for higher spending on overseas aid. But Mr Brown will insist that the party has to make "hard

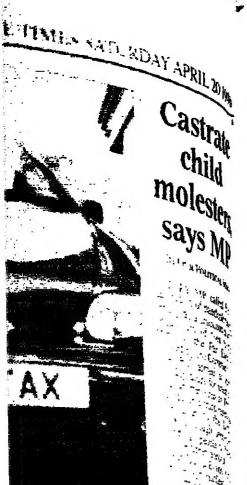
choices" to avoid tax increases. Since 1979 spending on overseas aid has fallen from 0.51 per cent of gross national product to 0.31. Joan Lestor, overseas aid spokes said in January: "A Labour government will start to reverse that decline in their first year of office." Mr Brown says that the commitment should be reconsidered.



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holds key to crunch factor BY NICK NUTTALE

THE peculiar British penchant for overcooking vegetables could soon be stymied by scientists investigating the secrets of an oriental vegetable.

They believe the ingredient that keeps water chestnuts firm and crunchy, even after overcooking, could be bred into other vegetables, protecting them from the worst excesses of the British

More importantly, it might be possible to engi-neer vegetables genetically so that they produce the erunchy chesinul factor, even after being processed and tinned, and stop fruit turning soft and mushy

during ripening. The texture of fruits and vegetables is influenced by different types of chemicals and the way they bond or "glue" together cell walls. During cooking or ripening these bonds, called peetic polysaccha-rides, are broken down and dissolve.

The Chinese water chestnut, which is actually the corm of an aquatic sedge, survives intact even after hours in a pan or being battered by the canning process because of a variety of chemicals called ferulic acids. In grasses, they form powerful bonds between cells which are heat-resistant,

The research has been led by Keith Waldron and a team at the Institute of Food Research in Norwich. Dr Waldron said: "We have now found that aproximately 1 per cent of the cell wall of the Chinese water chestnut consists of ferulic acid, which is ex-ceptionally high." Forty per cent of this is in a form which makes bonds that are adept at surviving

The researchers now plan to screen different varieties of common vege tables to discover which have the highest levels of the crunch chemicals.

Food, Weekend, page 3

Chestnut Tale of the Belvoir urns highlights rise in art crime

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

have done a marvellous job in

The Council for the Preven-

tion of Art Theft is calling for

stronger legal protection and

intends to campaign for stiffer

penalties for anyone arrested

in possession of items that are

more than 100 years old and

owned by a national gallery or

stately home. At the moment,

the law treats art theft like any

domestic theft of a video or

television. Yet, if a Canaletto

tracking them down."

TWO Italian 18th-century urns stolen from the Duke of Rutland's home, Belvoir Castle, were returned to him yesterday after Nottinghamshire police recovered them among a hoard of stolen

The duke is fortunate to have been reunited with his property. Few owners of historic properties have been so lucky: of about 1,000 items stolen during the past five years, only 78 objects were recovered, according to the Council for the Prevention of Art Theft.

A survey by the council found that since 1990 176 burglaries and attempted break-ins were reported by 150 privately owned stately homes that are open to the public. Belvoir Castle, near Grantham, with its paintings by Holbein, Gainsborough and Van Dyck, is among those open to the public. Sir Thomas Ingilby, of Ripley Castle in North Yorkshire, who co-founded the council. said that no more than 13

houses reported any arrests. Sir Thomas explained that the survey is yet to be topped up with figures from the National Trust and public galleries. "The number of was stolen, Sir Thomas said,

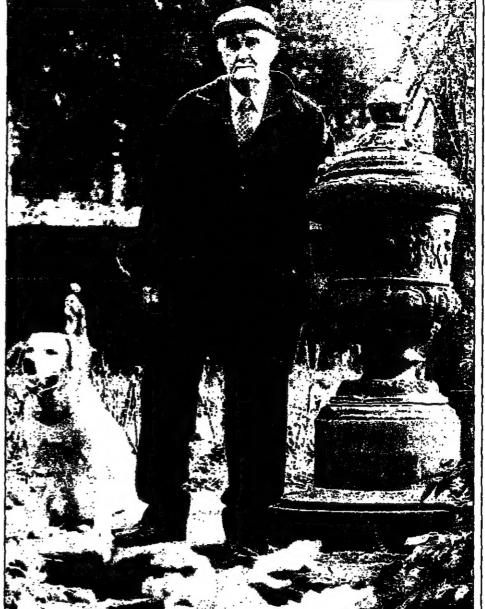
incidents is quite frightening." the nation lost part of its Such is the interest in stately The council is also pressing houses and their contents that

Country Life has become one for a "code of due diligence" to of the magazines most fa-voured by criminals, accord-ing to police sources. The ensure that every conceivable steo has been taken so that fine art and antiques that have professionals know exactly been reported stolen are not what they are looking for, a knowingly purchased. number are known to have The vast majority - 93 per

become experts through evecent of the items stolen - are ning art classes and Open not being recovered by the University courses.
The Belvoir Castle urns owners, yet they must be out there somewhere in the marwere found in the outbuilding of a property near Mansfield. ket," Sir Thomas said. "Reports of items being identified and returned by dealers are so Two men are being interviewed by the police. Officers few as to be exceptional. If joined the duke yesterday to watch the lead urns being anything proves a need for an effective 'code of due diligence' to be introduced in a practicareturned to their plinths, which have been rebuilt and ble manner, these shameful fitted with security devices. The duke said: The police figures do."

Burglars are going to extraordinary lengths to steal what they want. Magnifying glasses and silver hallmark books are being found at break-ins. In a spectacular raid on Houghton Hall in Norfolk, thieves constructed a scaffold tower to get into the first-floor window.

Garden statuary is proving particularly popular: wheelbarrows, trolleys and lorries with hydraulic hoists are used to make off with even the



The Duke of Rutland with one of the recovered urns yesterday. Few of his fellow stately home owners have been lucky enough to see their stolen artworks again

Sacked teachers win £24,000 in netball bugging case



Joy Kirby, left, and Wendy Easen yesterday after the tribunal ruled that they had been unfairly sacked

AT THOMAS COOK

EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT TWO teachers were unfairly sacked from an independent school after the owner bugged their conversations in a dispute

over netball matches, an industrial tribu-

By DAVID CHARTER

nal decided yesterday. Jeff Redmayne, owner of Musgrave Primary School in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, was ordered to pay £24,000 compensation to the teachers, whom he recorded using a briefcase with a built-in tape recorder. He later dismissed Joy Kirby and Wendy Easen from the £800-a-term school for gross misconduct, accusing them of plotting against the head teacher.

Mr Redmayne claimed that they waged a campaign to discredit Pamela Wood, the head, by organising a netball club behind her back and by trying to blame her for not providing first aid cover at a match.

phone fitted into the briefcase lock. He then kept the tape secret for ten months and used it as evidence to sack them.

Speaking after the tribunal in

Newcastle upon Tyne, Mrs Easen said: "I am delighted with the result and am relieved it is all over. I was withdrawn from my classroom without saying good-bye to my children. I was told I was not allowed to go back to school except to clear my things away after lessons had finished. It was horrendous,"

Mrs Kirby added: "Since I was dismissed from school it has been very difficult trying to live a normal life in the shadow of such accusations. We felt our every move was being watched. We could not do or say anything."

The tribunal chairman ruled: "Mr

Redmayne decided the teachers were

bugging their confidential conversation believed they colluded to fabricate an with a "KGB-style device" with a microto discredit her.

"He was not able to say what the

collusion was about. I feel no reasonable employer would have come to this decision. Even if their accounts had not been accepted and Mrs Wood's had, this could not have amounted to gross misconduct. The teachers in no way contributed to their dismissal." The tribunal awarded Mrs Easen

£11,500 compensation and Mrs Kirby £12,500. After the teachers were sacked two other teachers resigned fearing their jobs were at risk. They are claiming constructive dismissal.

Mr Redmayne said: "The management of Musgrave School is obviously disappointed . . . The decisions to dismiss were not taken lightly and were made after a full and thorough investigation by the

NEWS KEINER Iran 'sorry Rushdie is

Iran's parliamentary Speak-er said yesterday that Salman Rushdie had "insulted one billion Muslims and we are surry he is still alive". Ali Akbar Nategh-Nuri, an influential politician and leader of the regime's conserthat, despite Western protests, Iran stood firm on the 1989 fatwa by Ayatollah Kho-

still alive'

MP in hospital

meini condemning Rushdie to death for blasphemy in his

Seamus Mallon, the SDLP MP for Newry and Armagh, was in a stable condition after fainting during a radio interview. Mr Mallon, 59, was admitted to St Thomas's Hospital, south London, after collapsing on a Radio Ulster programme.

Sex trial delayed

The trial of a leading churchman accused of indecent assault on four women was adjourned until May 13 at Edinburgh Sheriff Court. Professor Donald Madeod. 55, of the Free Church of Scotland, denies five charges.

Robbery charge

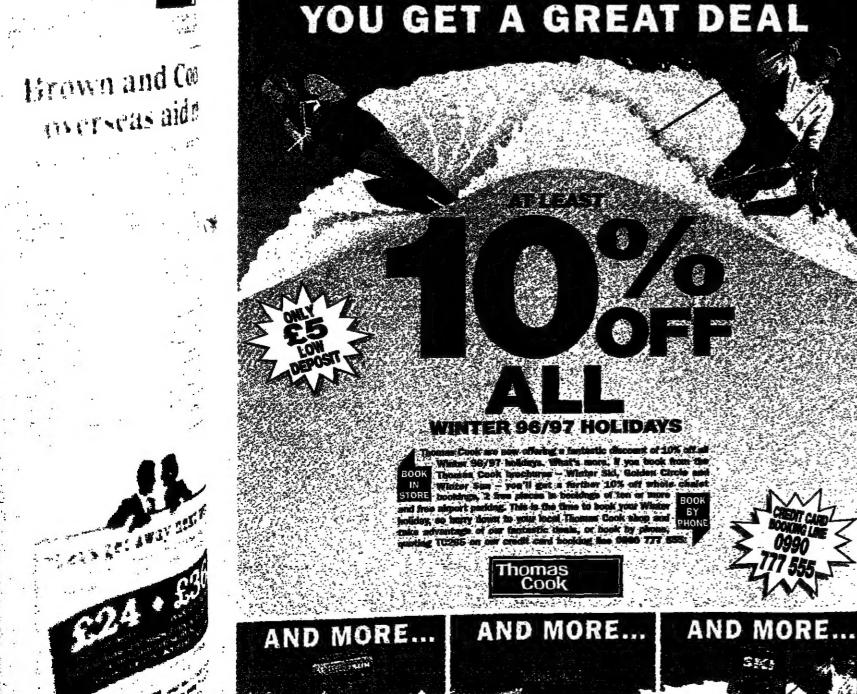
A 34-year-old man is expected to appear in court in Belfast today charged with armed robbery and unlawful imprisonment after the theft of more than El million from a Securicor van a week ago. Loyalist paramilitaries have been blamed.

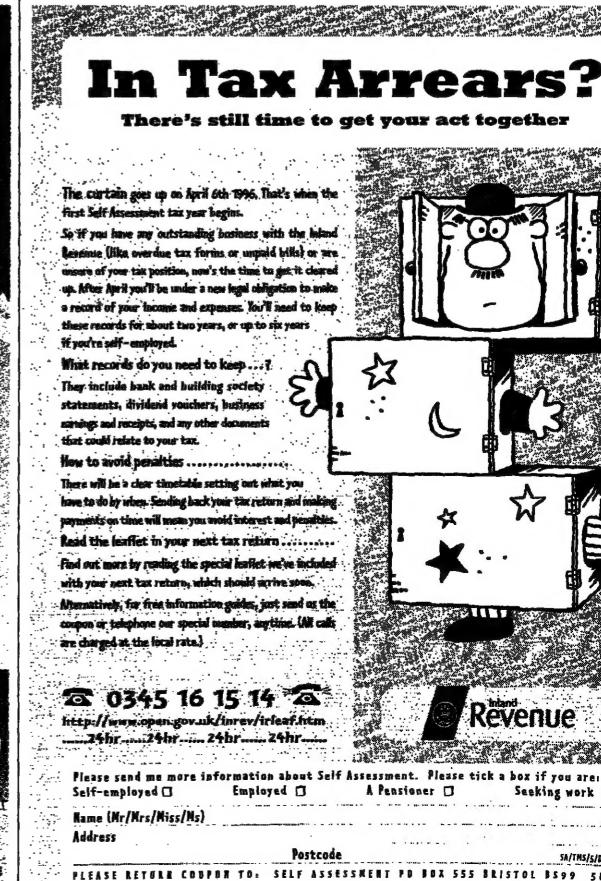
£3m paintings

Two sea pictures measuring more than 4ft by 9ft fetched £3.1 million at Christie's in London, setting a record for Loca Carlevaris, founder of the 18th-century Venetian school of view-painting. The previous best price was £660,000 for a single picture.

Lottery serenade

The tenor José Carreras will serenade Anthea Turner with a Spanish love song tonight when she hosts the National Lottery draw for the last time. Ms Turner, 35, is leaving to join Carlton TV. Her place will be taken by





Unthinkable tragedy that must never become unspeakable

from 1939 to 1945. The one we know as the Second World War was between the Allies and Nazi Germany and its partners in the Axis powers. The other was the Nazi programme against Europe's Jews, and many of its gypsies.

Those of us who survived the genocide were not only unable to comprehend the tragedy, but were also traumatised by it. Although we tried to speak to an unbelieving world about it and the betrayal

principle, we soon fell silent. There was a great danger that that which was not spoken of would become unspeakable.

There was, of course, a great deal of literature on the subject. But it was the screening of Holocaust, the American-made fictional series by Gerald Green, and Shoah, the searing 11-hour documentary by Claude Landsman, that helped to break the silence of the survivors. Indeed. what happened was not only that survivors felt it important for them friends and neighbours were also prepared to listen. Survivors of the Holocaust, a production being broadcast today, is the latest, and I very much hope not the last, of visual testimonies about the Holocaust.

The programme is a combined production by Turner Original Productions and The Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, which was created by Steven Spielberg after his work on Schindler's List. It shows excerpts Credo

Rabbi Hugo Gryn

from the more than 12,000 fulllength video recordings of survivors' stories and testimonies. The men and women we meet in this documentary — briefly, but cer-tainly memorably — speak of their individual stories and experiences. They are not "talking heads", but

rather people whose outpourings of hearts and souls leave unforgettable images.

There are so many who speak of the guilt of the survivor. It is a feeling I understand very well. How is it, we ask ourselves, that people who were so much better, more talented and learned than us indeed, more noble - how is it that they perished and we survived? Is there any special point in our survival?

was mainly chance, but we also

tion on us. It is to testify about what we experienced and about the loss of so much decency and goodness and laughter, and also about the reality of evil. Perhaps this can give a little meaning, not only to our lives, but also to the

lives of those who we knew and lost, and to their deaths. I hope that this documentary will speak to the hearts and spirits We know in our hearts that it of the new generations and help to immunise them against moral a bystander when evil is perpenaled. For me, the line with which I so identify, and which is virtually a definition of this programme, is spoken by Andrew Newcels. He says: "I want to forget and I cannot" Race a clock f

Gun owners

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Survivors of the Holocaust is on CNN International at Ilam and again at 5pm.

Rabbi Hugo Gryn is the president of the Reform Synagogues of

Ghostbusters to haunt spirits that put chill in Chillingham

INVESTIGATORS of the paranormal are to spend four days and four nights at one of Britain's most haunted castles next week in the hope of confronting its long-term. non-paying guests and film-ing the evidence. Among the spiritual squatters are said to be hooded monks, a grieving wife seeking her dead husband, and a crying child.

The ghostbusters believe that as many as four generations of unquiet spirits are in residence at Chillingham Casberland. The Ghost Research Foundation was called in by Sir Humphry Wakefield after his family and staff reported strange events.

The 12th-century castle, built on the site of a 7thcentury monastery, has the perfect pedigree for a hauntwife's family, the Greys, lived

here after taking it by storm in 1245 and the word is they slaughtered all the defenders. It is quite likely there are a number of ghosts in the castle who very unhappy about that. People who were captured during battles were brought here for torture and died, later coming back to haunt."

A nun who lives in one of the castle lodges has reported hearing a young girl crying. but the sobbing continued.

Among the regular sightings is the ghost of Lady Mary Grey, emerging from a pic-ture in the hall and climbing the stairs to search in vain for her husband. The family claims a distant connection with Lady Jane Grey, the young woman executed for claiming the throne in 1553. Sir Humphry, 59, has seen

no spirits but has sensed their

presence. "I have had strange

castle have spoken of inexplicable blue flashes from

a fireplace. Records show regular sightings of a "blue boy" at the same spot in the 1900s. Sir Humphry's son Maximillian, 29, also claims a close encounter. "Max was at home one night when he thought he could hear a burglar coming up the stairs," his father said. "He got a gun and waited to confront him. The steps came into his room, went past him and out

feelings — a sudden shiver

going down my spine. I know there is something there

because I keep sensing things

Guests who stay at the

which are not normal."

through the wall. He never saw a thing. Until then he had always been a sceptic."

Chillingham Castle: strange sights, odd sounds and a shiver down the spine

One guest staying in a particularly haunted wing apparently suffered a breakdown after a brush with what she described as a whirlwind and some form of spectral visitation. "She tried to sue us afterwards, claiming we were responsible for her mental condition," Sir Humphry

Jason Carr, of the Ghost Research Foundation, which is putting a six-man team into the castle on Monday, is no stranger to the spirit world, having confronted four in his time. He said: "We have been

in regular contact with Sir Humphry for the past two years, and we are quite confident there is something there. We use video cameras and monitoring equipment to see if there is anything strange in the atmosphere. We also have a member of the team who is psychic, so perhaps we can make contact."

Despite their unsettling activities, Sir Humphry has rown quite fond of his guests from beyond the grave, regarding them as good company. The investigation may do no harm to the castle's other role as a tourist haunt it reopens to paying guests next

Bishops call for civil vows to state that marriage is for life

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ROMAN Catholic bishops called on the Government yesterday to strengthen civil serting statutory public vows that marriage is for life.

The bishops, who debated the Government's divorce law proposals this week, said: "To strengthen marriage it is not enough to reform divorce."

At present, couples who marry in register offices can if they wish take lifelong vows in public, but this is not a statutory requirement. The bishops want this altered in an attempt to strengthen marriage and want a more intensive programme of marriage preparation for all couples.

While couples who marry in church receive preparation from the clergy, nothing is laid on for those who marry in a civil ceremony. Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, criticised the lack of preparation for marriage, which he said was in stark contrast to the complex process of divorce.

He compared marriage to entering the priesthood, and said he had spent four years preparing for ordination. Par-enthood held far greater responsibilities, yet it was something people fell into, he said. He believed that all couples should be offered counselling before marriage and that register office ceremonies should include openly stated lifetime commitments. The issue is of increasing

concern to church leaders of all denominations as increasingly attractive venues are licensed for civil weddings. Cardinal Hume said: "The only thing you have to say is 'Mary, I do take thee to be my wife.' A registrar might make a few statements, but he may omit the fact that marriage is

Cardinal Hume, speaking after the annual post-Easter Low Week meeting of the Catholic bishops of England and Wales, said: "We think we should make the entrance to marriage more difficult and not something that people just drift into. It cannot be beyond the wit of people to find something. Children should be taught at school and by their parents that marriage was for life.

Earlier this year, Cardinal Hume added his voice to the chorus of opposition to the Lord Chancellor's divorce Bill, and insisted that further thought be given to the issue of fault. He said the Bill did not underline the seriousness of breaking marriage vows.

The bishops, who had previously given their general support to the Bill, backed Cardinal Hume yesterday and welcomed the "new emphasis" on reconciliation that is

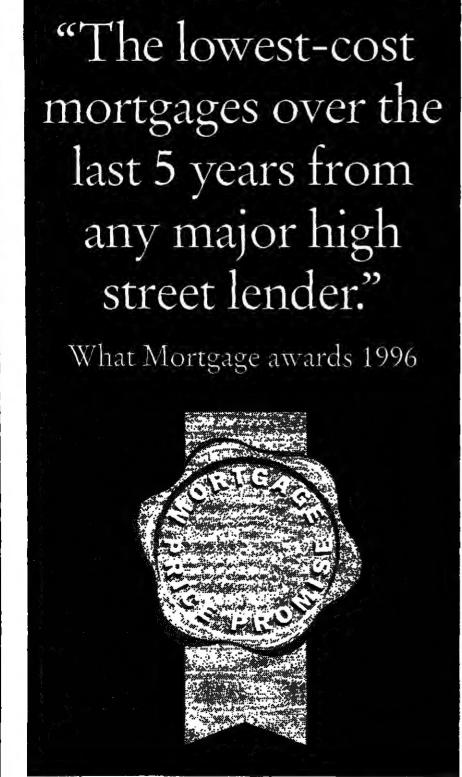
emerging in the Bill. In a joint, statement, they said: "We believe that with adequate time for reflection, and provision of professional help, many more marriages might be saved. We would welcome any measures which might be introduced to give couples: time to assess the serious consequences of seeking a divorce." They said serious consideration should be given to strengthening the statutory. framework within which civil marriages are made.

The bishops, who met in Westminster, said that the formal promises made by a couple at a civil marriage ceremony should "always explicitly refer to the legal definition of marriage, namely that it is the union of one man with one woman, voluntarily en-tered into for life to the exclusion of all others".

The Office for National Statistics, which incorporates the General Register Office. said: "We have no comment because we have not had any. official representation from the bishops.

Cardinal Hume also stood by his view that the waiting time before a divorce proposed in the Bill be extended from 12 months, but did not specify how long it should be

At Your Service. Weekend, page 15



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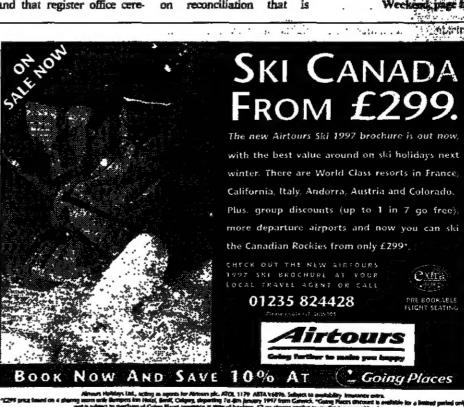
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Race against the clock for Atlanta

in Olympics dash

THESE are nail-biting times in Atlanta as it counts down to opening ceremonies for the Olympic Games in three months. The city is hoping to win a world-class reputation as the Big Peach, but snags and discord still litter the

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Heavy winter rains delayed construction of the stadium. Crews are racing to catch up, but will have their work cut out. The city centre is still a rash of hardhat sites that throb to the clatter of pneu-matic drills and bulldozers. Officials have delayed the debut of a festive Olympic Park from next month to June while workers shift into high gear seven days a week. The Games start on July 19.

Anxieties about terrorism have prompted the FBI and 22 other law-enforcement agencies to hold secret exercises this week based on alarming scenarios. They included simat Atlanta airport and a chemical weapons attack. Activist groups are snapping at the heels of civic supporters with increasing ferocity, with charges that low-income families have been evicted to make

way for "the Olympic family". The risks of taking a stroll in Atlanta, particularly at night. became an issue when Michael Bowers, Georgia's Attorney-General, said it would be "safer to walk the streets of Sarajevo" - a comment that angered city officials. Atlanta will undergo a pre-

Olympics test in crowd control this weekend when 200,000 black college students arrive for an annual spring rite known as Freaknik, a party-ing and car-cruising bash that causes untold traffic jams. Atlanta residents who had

hoped to amass sky-high profits from renting their well-todo homes to Olympics spectators are still waiting. One rental agent, Anne Treadwell,

has listings for 6,500 houses and flats, many costing \$1,000 (£600) a day, but only five prices must start falling quickly if the idea is ever to catch on.

The quest for Olympics tickets and hotel rooms re-mains a daunting challenge. British fans who decide to attend at this late stage will be better off buying tour packages before they leave rather than taking their chances in Atlanta, where promises of extra tickets and accommodation are falling short,

this week were offered hotel rooms no closer than 160 miles from Atlanta. All popular events were sold out, leaving tickets only for early rounds of basketball and gymnastics, or for sports like archery and women's baseball. About 3,000 British fans are expected to make the Olympic trek. Despite the problems. At-

lanta's organisers are confi-



One of two workers hurt when a tower collapsed at the Olympic stadium last year is lowered to safety. A third was killed

dent that all work will be finished on time. "Damn right, we'll be ready." said Bob Brennan, the Games spokesman, wearily fielding questions about Atlanta's ability to finish on time. "Look at what we've already done."

The Olympic stadium with seating for \$3,000 will be dedicated a month from now, even as the organising committee and architects sue each other over allegations of negligence after a light tower collapsed and killed a worker.

The Games has already set records: 197 countries will take part, 28 more than in Barcelona. There will be more than 10,000 athletes, up from 9,367 four years ago, and 3,779 will be women, a 40 per cent rise. Reginald Mitchell, the doy-

en of Atlanta's British community and owner of "Reg-gie's British Pub", is confident the city will indeed be peachy. He said: "They'll have everything in place by opening day, but it will probably cost them a fortune in overtime.

Rifkind plea for colony's council

By MICHAEL BINYON

BRITAIN will make a lastditch effort today to persuade

fairs Office, slipped out of the colony by car to avoid demonstrators yesterday, after talks with officials.

Gun owners gather in Dallas to target Clinton campaign

FROM TOM RHODES IN DALLAS

THE city where John Kennedy was assassinated has never disguised its fondness for powerful guns or strong women. Yesterday the two forces were combined in a political broadside against President Clinton. More than 25,000 gun

enthusiasts arrived in Dallas for the annual convention of the 125-year-old National Rifle Association, one of the most powerful political lobby groups in America, which could affect the presidential

At its helm are two women who have firmly established that the NRA is no longer a male bastion: Marion Hammer, a 57-year-old chainbecame its first female chair-

defence of the Second Amendment right to bear arms and have promised their organisation will help to defeat Mr Clinton in November.

But membership tumbled last year by 400,000 and, according to figures to be released this weekend, NRA cash and investments have declined by more than half to \$42.8 million (£27.4 million).

With a sense of timing that even stalwarts recognise as embarrassing, the association opened its conference yester day on the anniversaries of the Oklahoma City bombing and the FBI siege at Waco, events which have cast a shadow over a movement perceived by many Americans to support radical militia groups. Mrs Hammer said the date had been set a year

before the Waco débacie in

which 80 members of the

Branch Davidian cult died. Dave Edmondson, a former the lendership of "bankrupting the NRA and leading it away from its traditional roots as a group to support the

But if the organisation has alienated a majority of Ameriradical following still exerts plenty of political clout. Mr Clinton has said be will

veto any attempt to repeal a the Senate is unlikely to pass such a measure. But a vote h the House last month pass that House Republicans will remain loyal to the organis-

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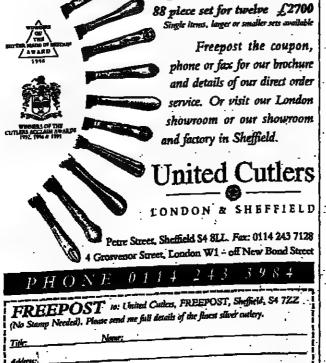
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China to allow Hong Kong's final elected Legislative Council to continue its work after Peking's takeover next year. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, will meet Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, in The Hague today to review the intensifying pace of discussions before the transfer of Hong Kong's sovereign-ty. He is expected to press Mr Qian to lift China's threat to abolish the council. Mr Rifkind will point to the harm such a move would cause. Discussions will also centre on the role of the Hong Kong Civil Service, after warnings by Peking that civil servants will be expected to show Lu Ping, the head of China's Hong Kong and Macau Af-

Leading article, page 21

By the time this new amobile needs recharging today's news will be history. Ericsson's advanced technology has made the GH 388 one of the smallest and lightest mobiles in the world. Even better news is that the GH 388 has up to 10 working days standby time (that's up to 80 hours) or 4 hours 35 minutes talktime. In fact, you'll find the GH 388 is the most advanced mobile phone around. For more information on Ericsson mobile phones call 0171 814 5080. For details of Ericsson accessories call 01628 789 911.



ERICSSON

Israel forced on to political defensive by massacre of Lebanon refugees

By Lawrence Freedman

SINCE Thursday's catastrophic strikes against Lebanese civilians and their United Nations protectors, Israel has been on the political defensive. Up to that point, its strategy was to pound away until a refugee-induced build-up of economic pressure led Beirut and Damascus to accept the need to restrain Hezbollah.

This strategy required time, and one criteria was to prevent a buildup of external political pressure to

WHITE United Nations bull-

dozers tore at the twisted iron

skeletons of two flimsy prefab-

ricated huts where most of the

101 Lebanese refugees were killed at Qana, a desolate village five miles south of

Tyre, itself a virtual ghost city.

"I want to go home," said Seni Leba, 33, a Fijian lance

corporal, sitting crumpled in a

shrapnel-pocked white Mer-

cedes. "I can never again pick

up pieces of little babies." He

Major Josepha Savua. 44.

took over: "Our camp was a slaughterhouse. We were slip-ping on blood and flesh.

People were cut in half. Bodies

were thrown everywhere. This was cold-blooded mur-

As we spoke, an Israeli

Anache helicopter gunship hung like a dragonfly in the

sky to the west. Surrounding

hills and valleys rumbled to

the sound of incoming Israeli

The UN said 300 were fired

by noon yesterday. There had already been eight Israeli air

raids on southern Lebanon.

Overnight Hezbollah had

fired 50 Katyusha rockets into

northern Israel, Another mas-

sacre did not seem impossible.

We tried to communicate

with the Unifit command

when the Israelis started shell-

ing yesterday, but we got cut

off," said Major Savua. He added that 28 shells had

rained down on the area over

a 20-minute period, three his-ting the camp, home to 161

artillery shells.

COMMENTARY

sion. Arab moderates were required to confine their displeasure to ritual condemnations. Western governments, fearful of an even harder-line Likud government were expected to give Israel the benefit of the doubt.

Large-scale civilian casualties would inevitably be counterproductive, and so it has proved. With some grim exceptions, the operations up to Thursday had not produced the number of fatalities

that the sheer amount of muni-tions involved might have led one to expect. But when whole families get blown to pieces, the costs seem to be disproportionate.

The West does not want to abandon Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, but it also does not want to accept the costs of rationalising Israeli actions. Hence the demands for an imme diate ceasefire.

A unilateral ceasefire by Israel while Hezbollah attacks continued would be a disastrous outcome for Mr Peres. So long as the

Katyushas keep on coming, he dare not stop Operation Grapes of Wrath. So yesterday, little seemed to have changed: rockets still fell on northern Israel; volleys of artillery shells replied - only now, it is much harder for Israel to be patient and sustain the

operation at its previous level of

Unless Israel is prepared to escalate its action by instituting large-scale ground operations in southern Lebanon, it has to seek a negotiated solution. Even this option would depend on a failed

Mikael Lindvall, said Oana

was a disaster waiting to

happen". As he spoke, many of

the 200 refugees in the UN's Tyre base dived for cover as

the earth shook from the explosive sonic boom of an

Israeli warplane - reminding

people that a noon deadline to

fice israel's free-fire zone had

expired. Every few minutes for

the next four hours Israeli

gunboats pumped two or three

Sweating motorists tuned

into radios heard optimistic

talk about a possible ceasefire.

But optimism was not the

southern Lebanon yesterday.

shells into the coast.

diplomatic effort which would confirm an Israeli interest and

Hezbollah may well feel under no pressure to agree to a ceaselire except on favourable terms. So far, things have been going its way politically, and to some extent militarily, in that just being able to continue firing its rockets is a victory of sorts. Most Arab gov ernments, however, including Syria, recognise that confronta tions such as this can escalate out of control: they will not want Hezboliah to pass up an opportumity to secure a ceasefire. Hence the optimism that a deal can be reached. One possibility would be a return to the 1993 understanding: Israeli troops on Lebanese soil would be considered fair game for ambush, but Hezbollah would eschew rocket attacks. Few consider that much progress has been made if this was the best that could be

achieverl A more satisfactory settlement would be for Israel to find a way to evacuate its "security zone" in southern Lebanon. It has never

territory and this zone has not been a great success. Nonetheless Israel, like many insecure states, still feels its borders are safest when it controls both sides. It has demanded, in return for leaving the zone, a combination of Hezbollah promises, Syrian guarantees, international supervision and nine months of peace. Of these, the most flexibility probably rests with the firning. The stronger the guarantees, the earlier it might be

able to leave Lebanon alone.

Han poise buy po

MEL

UN soldiers grieve over 'slaughterhouse' tactics

out. He was bleeding. All his

Eamonn Smyth, 44, from

Dublin, a commandant at the

UN's Tyre headquarters, was

in a convoy of relief vehicles

trying to deliver aid to civil-

ians marooned in villages

under Israeli fire when radio

calls for assistance came from Qana. "When we got there,

there were row upon row of bodies," he said. "The charred

bodies of women and children

everywhere. I've never seen

anything so horrific in 22

The UN spokesman in Tyre.

years of soldiering."

face was red with blood."

Fijians who had been sheltering 850 Lebanese civilians. The barrage came 15 minutes after six Hezbollah fighters fired two Katyusha rockets from near a cemetery, 300 yards from the camp. "We urged them to stop, but it was too late. After firing the rockets, they ran away, said Fijian staff sergeant Kelepi Nasaki.

In Tyre's Najem Hospital, where most casualties and body bags were first taken. Shawie Balhas, 45, a father-of-12 - until the massacre - was slamming his hand on the wall and wailing in a room where two of his daughters, Fidaa. 9, and Siham. 16. lay on blood-soaked beds, both with horrific burns. Two of his

sons were in another hospital. "I can't find the others, there are eight more, and my wife, Tamimi. They must all be dead," he sobbed. He had sent

Hamid Deeb, 27, was the only patient in another small room. The doctor pulled back the blankets on her bed to reveal blood-soaked, bundaged stumps. "We amputated her right arm and her left leg below the knee immediatehe said. As many as 25 of her family - cousins, uncle. nieces and nephews - were

eating in a building. Then REFUGEES there were flames. A [UN] soldier was trying to hold up the roof so we could be pulled

them to Qana for safety.

among the dead," he added.

"I can't remember much," said Miss Deeb. "We were

"It's dangerous trying to nego-tiate with Hezbollah," he said.

Iran urges retaliation

Tehran: Ayatollah Ali Khamenci, the supreme leader of Iran, yesterday urged Hezbollah guerrillas to strike back at Israel for the massacre of

civilians in southern Lebanon. In a message to Hassan Nusrallah, the leader of the Tehran-backed Hezbollah. Ayatollah Khamenei said that he was "deeply saddened" by the Israeli shelling of the UN refugee compound. "Dignity requires that you withstand Zionist anacks and strike a

blow to make them remorseful of their acts. The slightest sign of vielding would make (Israell bolder and more beastly."

He added: "This great human catastrophe shows how bold the Zionists have become and how they disregard international norms."

Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, condenined the Israeli shelling of the UN compound in Cana as ruthless and savage



A young survivor of the Israeli raid on the UN refugee camp in Qana recovering in a Tyre hospital yesterday

CRISIS IN

Within minutes of Thursday's shelling of the U.N. base near Tyre in Southern Lebanon, Red Cross staff were helping to evacuate and treat the wounded. We made emergency deliveries of dressings and IV fluids to overcrowded hospitals. And a Red Cross convoy brought food, medical supplies and more doctors and nurses to provide essential medical care in Tyre and Sidon.

This is just part of the Red Cross ald effort in Southern Lebanon, 60,000 people are trapped by the violence and 400,000 more are fleeing north. Red Cross workers are providing them with the blankets, food and medical aid they desperately need.

Now we need your help to ensure aid continues to reach those who need it desperately. Please give as much as you can today. Your donation can save lives. Thank you.

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banon refugees

MELVYN MARCKUS 26

Our City Editor reports on the US-UK power play



WORKING WEEK 27

Able protector on investment front line



SPORT 42-48

Last chance for White to fulfil his dream

HIDDEN ASSETS AT COURTAULD **GALLERIES** Page 27

*TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

M&G sides with BET in Rentokil bid battle

By Sarah Cunningham

BET, the business services company. received a big boost in its campaign to thwart a hostile L2.1 billion bid by Remokil when its largest institu-tional shareholder pledged support for the incumbent management.

M&G Investment Management yesterday took the unusual step of publicly declaring its support for BET in respect of its 7.5 per cent holding with seven days remaining before the bid closes. The move strengthened BET's case in the escalating bid battle, which has until now been seen as going clearly Rentokil's way. One other large institutional investor said yesterday he expects Renaccrue to our investors from BET tokil still to win, but others said it was too close to call.

BET yesterday made public a letter from M&G to Sir Christopher Harding, the BET chairman, endorsing the efforts of John Clark, chief executive, to restore the company's fortunes. "John has not only accomplished this most successfully, but has also been consistent in setting out his plans for the future and is now delivering results in line with these strategies," M&G said,

"BET has very attractive prospects and (we) look forward to the long-

remaining as an independent firm."

M&G has a record of supporting the incumbent management, having recently supported Amee in its successful light to fend off a takeover bid from Kvaerner, of Norway, Rentokit declined to respond to M&G's declaration of support for BET, but restated its attack on BET's corporate strategy and prospects. Advisers to Rentokil, while disappointed by M&G's move, privately expressed confidence that the Rentokil bid

would succeed. One fund manager said vesterday

he had reached a decision on which way to go and would delay voting until the last minute. He said that the M&G statement had not influenced

his thinking. He said: "I think it will be a very close run thing." He added: "In the last week, BET has put up a robust defence and Rentokil has put a robust

Other institutional investors with significant stakes in BET are Prudential, Threadneedle. Hermes, BZW and Sun Life. Standard Life is one of the few firms with large shareholdings in both BET and Rento 4kij. In what appeared to be a hedging

40 million BET shares on Thursday. Private shareholders account for less

than 10 per cent of BET's shares. Charles Pick, an analyst at Panmure Gordon, the broker, said M&G's move was not conclusive but said it was "a major coup on BET's

Rentokil is offering nine new shares and £10 in cash for every 20 BET shares, plus a 4p dividend. BET has described the offer as inadequate. BET shares closed at 20212p yesterday, down 3p. Rentokil fell 3p to 352p.

US buyers

lift FT-SE

to record

By Michael Clark STOCK MARKET

CORRESPONDENT SHARE prices on the London stock market surged to their

highest levels ever as American investors embarked on a massive spending spree. The FT-SE 100 index closed

at its best of the day with a rise

of 36.4 to 3,857,1. It stretches its lead on the week to 91 points,

or 24 per cent, and brokers say the market may still have

further to run. By the close of business 910 million shares

Brokers report that Ameri-

can investors have been

switching out of Wall Street

and into London where they

feel better returns can be achieved. The sheer weight of

American money and an ab-

sence of seiling by domestic institutions has combined to

squeeze prices sharply higher. It has also enabled the London

market to shrug-off any disap-

options yesterday made it

difficult for market-makers to

cover exposed positions. Senti-

ment was further boosted by another liberal sprinkling of bid speculation that has been

revived by this week's news

that Southern Company, the US utility, wants to bid for National Power.

Markets, page 28

The expiry of the April

pointing economic news.

had changed hands.

Tempus, page 28

WEEKEND



Anne Ashworth

on urgent action in the pension scandal

Railtrack. A trip round the

TONEY OF TONE SERVENT



latest share sale

30 Head over heart. Finances in marriage and divorce

Building societies. Bristol & West and

the other deals PENSIONS



Pensions guide Part VIII. Early retirement

Hanson poised to buy power stations

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

EASTERN Group, the regional electricity company owned by Hanson, was poised yesterday to become Britain's fourth largest gen-erator by buying stations worth more than £1.3 billion

from National Power. The deal, expected to be announced imminently, will put ague behind National Power, PowerGen and the nuclear generators of British Energy, It will also anger critics of vertical integration - the combination of generation and

distribution in one company. Eastern is already the largest supplier of electricity in Britain, serving a customer base of three million.

Vertical integration is an issue in two bids for regional companies by National Power and PowerGen. A ruling is expected shortly from lan Lang, the President of the Board of Trade. It has been recommended by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, but vehemently opposed by Stephen Littlechild, the

electricity regulator.
The deal between Eastern and National Power is conditional on ratification by Mr Lang. National Power has previously argued that if it is

BUSINESS

1,5170* (1,5188)

1.5177 2.2851 7.7537 1.8550 162.34 83.9

5.1083* 1.2232* 107.09* 96.4

Tokyo close Yen 106.85

Brent 15-day (Jul)... \$18.05 (\$17.75)

London close \$390,55 (\$391,45)

denotes midday trading price

TODAY

not allowed to buy Southern Electric, for which it has bid £2.8 billion, it would not make competitive sense to sell power plant to a fast-growing vertically integrated company.

The expected deal with Natforced to sell plant by Professor Littlechild to encourage compestations producing 4,000 megawatts and will cost between El.3 and El.7 billion. Last November, Eastern bought 2,000 megawatts of plant from PowerGen for £450 million after the generator complied with a similar self-off order.

Eastern, which has a further 800 megawants of plant commissioned or under construction, is now close to its goal, declared six years ago on privatisation, of being the third

largest generator by 1998. The deal with National Power for three coal-fired stations will be for 99-year leases with "earn-out" arrangements so the generator is paid a proportion of the bill over several years according to output. That way National Power retains an interest in the generation of the plant.

Separately, National Power is working to scupper a bid approach from Southern Company, of the US, by rushing through emergency talks with Southern Electric, its own intended bid target. Talks are being held in an

effort to push through a pur-chase as soon as Mr Lang clears the bid. If he rules in favour of vertical integration then a recommended offer will be made swiftly to shareholders.

They are negotiating a new price which could represent a substantial premium on the £2.8 billion offered last year before the bid was referred. Once a sum is agreed, the bid could go through within 21 days. Such speed would leave Southern of the US scant time

to persuade National Power shareholders to agree to its bid. which is likely to go hostile. If the US company, which owns Sweb, the regional electricity company, tries to bid for the UK generator complete with its acquisition of Southem Electric (UK), it is certain to face referral to the MMC.

Melvyn Marekus, page 26



Hotels group raises £180m in flotation

MILLENNIUM and Copthorne Hotels raised £180 milpublic offering, capitalising the group at £402 million (Eric Reguly writes). The company, which has 22 business hotels, said that it would use the funds to expand its four-star portfolio

in North America. Baring Brothers under-wrote 64.7 million shares at 278p. The company said a notional net dividend of 4.7p in 1995 represents a gross yield of 21 per cent on the

flotation price. The offering reduced from 100 per cent to 55 per cent Millennium's ownership by CDL Hotels International, controlled by the Singapore onaire, Kwek Leng Beng. Tempus, page 28

Bank go-head for new clearing system

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE threat of a massive bank failure bringing the City to the edge of multi-million pound systemic" collapse will be significantly reduced on Monday. The Bank of England yesterday gave the green light to a new system capable of han-dling about £200 billion worth of instantaneous inter-bank

transfers each day. The introduction of the Real Time Gross Settlement system next week means that the days of messengers in individual livery carrying choques worth millions of pounds between City houses have finally been buried. The formal inter-bank messenger service was ended in 1995 when the Town Clear-

ing Service within the Square Mile was phased out. Under the present system, details of inter-bank transfers are transmitted immediately on the Clearing House Automated Payment System, but the handing over of the actual money happens only at the end of every day. Typically, this might not be until 7.30pm.

What has particularly con-cerned the Bank of England and the Association for Payment Clearing Services is that the average volume trans-ferred each day last year was £106 billion. That is rising steadily. On one day alone last month, more than E170 billion was transmitted.

Fraud inquiry at Littlewoods

BY JON ASHWORTH

FRAUD squad detectives are investigating allegations of a "substantial" fraud at Littlewoods, the pools-to-stores group owned by the secretive Moores family. John Baird, former head of the company's building services department, was dismissed in January, and is now the centre of the fraud squad inquiry. Two other employees were also dismissed, but are

not being investigated.

Management was alerted to alleged irregularities by an anonymous leater. Linlewoods's in-house security team studied allegations that contracts with suppliers in Scotland had been over-inflated.

They called in the Liverpool police fraud squad, who passed on their findings to police in Strathchyde. A report has been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service and the Procurator-Fiscal in Dumbarton.

The building services department is based at the Liverpool head office of the Littlewoods stores, and is responsible for fabric and fittings at 130 Lindewoods stores, along with distribution centres and head office. The stores division has annual sales of £700 million, and a "very substantial sum" is thought to be

Mr Baird had been with the company for less than a year. A spokesman said: "We're not ashamed to have detected this. The message is: if arryone is behaving like this, they are

The incident is the latest in a string of set-backs for Littlewoods, which has been rocked by internal family squab-bles. In October 1994, three senior managers in the company's buying department were dismissed over fraud

Barry Dale, former chief executive, was dismissed in March 1995. Late last year, Mr Dale emerged at the head of a group seeking to buy Littlewoods for £1.2 billion. The bid was defeated, along with a rival 11.1 billion offer from N Brown, the mail

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The latest developments in the power sector will hardly have come as a bolt from a pylon to readers of The Times. It was on April I, in an article entitled Power bidders braced for MMC's report, that we first focused on speculation that the UK's two principal generating companies — National Power and PowerGen were unlikely to prove bid-proof during the next round of consolidation within the sector. Last week, this column flagged the prospect of a transatlantic takeover bid for one of the Gencos and, on Wednesday. The Times exclusively disclosed that Southern Electric International, of Atlanta. Georgia, had its sights set on the acquisition of National Power.

It would appear that Southern US, which acquired SWEB for £1.1 hillion during last year's open season for Recs, has been eveing National Power since well before Christmas, Southern US, led by Thomas Boren, president and chief executive, clearly intended to do no more than carry on cycing

until Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, responded to the MMC's green lights for Power-Gen's £1.9 billion takeover bid for Midlands Electricity and National Power's £2.8 billion bid for Southern UK. But, as Southern US negotiated the thick end of \$10 billion worth of financing with a consortium of City banks, word leaked. On Tuesday, close on 13 million shares in National Power changed hands as the price soared 312p to 5212p. The Takeover Panel, already familiar with Southern US's designs, directed SBC Warburg, Southern US's adviser, to issue a statement the following morning. Against this background, Mr Boren held a late meeting with John Baker, chairman of National Power, and Keith Henry, chief executive. This pumpkin hour parlez was, by all accounts, an amicable affair. Boren presumably outlined his vision of the creation of a Southern US/National Power global utility and, so it would seem, pressed for exploratory têtes a têtes

Matters reached the public domain on Wednesday, the theme from Southern's camp being that, whatever têtes a têtes might ensue, "formal" merger talks would not take place until after Lang's response to the MMC's report.

The theme from National Power's camp was somewhat different. Their theme, albeit my words, was that talking was for wimps. Wit-ness, come Thursday, Baker's blunt letter to Boren. Baker let it be known that there was "no point" in Boren's proposed meeting. He emphasised that National Power's strategy was focused on the acqui-sition, if cleared, of Southern UK and the expansion of international operations. Baker questioned Southern US's ability to "structure an acquisition which offers our shareholders fair value". Why, he asked, should National Power combine its business with SWEB rather than Southern UK? Just in case Mr Boren had not got the drift, Baker added: "If you make a proposal to us, including the price you would be proposing to offer to



MARCKUS

our shareholders, how it is to be financed and your plans for the business, my board will then consider whether it would be in the best interests of our shareholders and the business that we should respond positively to your request for a meeting. Baker concluded that National Power "Is not and will not" be for sale unless "compelling value" for shareholders is "put forward in a credible way".

Mr Boren, whose approach to takeovers is reminiscent of Lord Hanson and the late Lord White chat first, shoot later - is said to be deeply "disappointed" at National Power's reaction. That said, National Power has never been an easy enterprise to read. It was Baker who called for Scottish Power's El.1 billion takeover bid for Manweb to be referred to the MMC and proclaimed that National Power would not bid for a Rec, a statement overtaken by its £2.8 billion foray for Southern UK. Not for the first time, speculation has it that Baker and Henry burn on different fuels, the "closed door" approach being perceived as a classic reaction from Henry, rath-er than Baker, a former Whitehall mandarin, National Power also enjoys a secret weapon in the nonexecutive personage of Sir Alastair Morton, the Eurotunnel chief ge-

The MMC's report on PowerGen/Midlands and National Power/Southern UK has

netically designed to cope with

heen lying on Mr Lang's desk at the DTI since March 29. Everyone knows that the MMC has given a qualified green light for the bids because The Times disclosed this on March 6 and The Economist, with the benefit of a leaked copy of the report, confirmed our prediction a week ago. Mr Lang returned from overseas on April 15, and will pronounce on the MMC's findings before April 30, the traditional days for such activities being Tuesdays and Thursdays. The longer the Government delays, the more inept it looks. Suffice to say that Lang may, or may not, speak early next week.

The panel, spearheaded by Graeme Odgers, chairman of the MMC, voted four to one in favour of clearance, the dissenting voice being Patricia Hodgson, the BBC's

director of policy and planning.

The MMC's conclusion is that although the mergers "may be expected to operate against the public interest" in certain respects, these are not "sufficiently serious to justify prohibition". This wording,

in theory, permits Lang to reject the MMCs findings, witness a massive behind-the-scenes campaign to discredit the MMC.
Stephen Littlechild, Director-

General of Offer, remains passionately opposed to vertical integration but, on balance, the City still expects Lang to accept the

MMC's recommendations. Should Lang give a go ahead, PowerGen and National Power will press ahead with their respective bids. Should Lang reject the MMC's recommendations, Midlands, in which PowerGen holds a 21 per cent stake, could well attract a bid from General Public Utilities of the US. Also waiting on Lang is Houston Industries, reputed to be lining up an offer for London Electric 8p higher last week at 817p.

Southern US can choose to rumble or withdraw from its National Power play but, should it. go hostile, its opening gambit is unlikely to be significantly above National Power's current quote of 592p — up 100p on an eventful

G7 focus will fall on weakness in Europe's economy

By Janet Bush, an Anomics correspondent

THE dollar's raily over the past year against the Japanese yen and the Bundesbank's beautifully timed cut in German interest rates on Thursday create a relatively positive backdrop to tomorrow's meeting of the Group of Seven industrialised countries in

The overvaluation of the yen against the dollar was last year's big issue but officials are now generally satisfied after the dollar's appreciation of around 35 per cent against

PLANET HOLLYWOOD.

the restaurant chain backed

by film stars such as Arnold

Schwarzenegger and Bruce

Willis, soared to a 66 per cent

premium when its shares

opened on Wall Street's

Nasdaq over-the-counter

Amid frenzied dealing, in-vestors battled to get hold of

shares, forcing the price up from an initial \$18 to more

than \$30, in what has been

one of the most popular

share issues of the year. The

Film stars who have lent

their names to the restaurant

chain's publicity have been

given shares. The biggest

Issue raised \$194 million.

stock market yesterday.

Secretary, reaffirmed on Thursday that a strong dollar was in the intrests of America, and Wataru Kobe. Japan's finance minister, said that G7 co-operation on currencies will continue. The yen has been appreciating again recently in response to signs that the Japanese economy may be recovering from its long stagnation and this trend will be discussed tomorrow, and

watched closely. The bigger question for the

winners, however, are the

co-founders. Keith Barish

and Robert Earl. Mr Earl is

the British entrepreneur

who was previously involved in the Hard Rock

Cafe. They each own about a

third of the company and

are now worth more than

At the \$18 issue price.

Planet Hollywood was val-

ued at \$1.9 billion, but the

price rise has now put its

value at more than \$3 bil-

lion. The chain made a

profit last year - \$20 mil-

lion - for the first time since

it was founded in 1991. It

has plans to open a further

15 restaurants this year.

\$200 million each.

Planet Hollywood

at 66% premium

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

Robert Rubin, US Treasury ness in European economies and the strength of the mark. The Bundesbank's move on Thursday to cut its discount and Lombard rates by haif a point was meant to address both these issues. The German central bank has often moved rates just before international meetings and, yet again, it has taken heat off the German contingent. There were rate cuts yester-

day by Ireland, Greece and Portugal, and Spanish and French bond markets rallied strongly in the expectation that next week will see rate cuts in these countries, too.

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, which begins its spring meeting on-Monday, urged France last week to follow Germany's lead. The IMF poured doubt on Europe's ability to move to monetary union by 1999 un less it can boost economic growth through lower interest

In spite of Germany's move. it is likely the squeeze on European growth of current efforts to cut budget deficits down to Maastricht treaty limits will feature large in discussions tomorrow.

The other major issue on the agenda is the current drive to agree a comprehensive package of debt reduction for the world's poorest countries. Last week there were indications that a fight is looming between the G7 and the IMF over who will bear the bulk of the cost. The ongoing crisis in the Russian economy will also be



Chances of fast BT and C&W deal diminish

By ERIC REGULY

CABLE and Wireless and BT have indicated that it will probably take several weeks, or even months, before an agreement is struck to create the the world's first truly global telecoms group.

Although progress is being made, the companies said that the talks could break down at any moment, as they have once before. A source close to the talks said: "It could be decided that the hurdles are insurmountable. If it doesn't happen, it doesn't happen. Shareholder value is the central factor at the end of the day."

Shares of both companies retreated yesterday as chances of a fast deal diminished. C&W closed at 540p, down op, while BT fell 2p to 377p.

C&W and BT have reached broad agreement on the structure of the deal, but little else. They would come together in a reverse takeover. in which C&W would become the technical owner of the larger BT. The company would operate under the C&W name because nationally; the BT name

would be used only in the UK. The structure is designed to preserve C&W's trading relationships in the 50 or so countries in which it operates. If BT took control of C&W instead of the other way round, C&W's foreign licences probably would become

Among the most important outstanding issues are determining the value of Hongkong Telecom, which is 57.5 per cent owned by C&W, and deciding what presence the new group should have in Germany. C&W and BT have competing alliances there and, in all probability, one of them will

BUSINESS FICHNOUP

Vision Group rises on Fisher-Price link

VISION GROUP has reached agreement with Fisher-Price, the US toy company, to supply image sensors for use in a children's toy instant camera. It also announced plans to raise £3.5 million via a share placing of 1.5 million new

shares at 227p each to fund expansion.

News of the Fisher-Price deal boosted Vision's share price by 18p to 257p in spite of the company reporting a half-year loss. The new Fisher-Price Creative Effects camera enables children to take instant pictures with fun special effects. Vision, which was floated a year ago, disclosed a loss of £895,000 before tax in the six months to January 31, in line with expectations. Turnover in the first half rose 32 per cent. to £1.1 million. Vision will step up production in the second half of this year after signing several sales agreements. One is with Tyco Inc. a US toymaker, which is to make a black and white video camera and in a deal with Vivitar, Vision is to supply a colour camera chip for use in videoconferencing.

Microsoft 42% ahead

MICROSOFT achieved a 42 per cent jump in third-quarter-earnings, comfortably ahead of expectations and showing no sign of injury from the worlwide slowdown in computer sales this year. Net income for the three months to March 31 rose to \$563 million (\$395 million) on revenues of \$2.2 billion. Microsoft's performance is considerably stronger than many other personal computer companies, which have been suffering from difficult market conditions. Its success is partly because of the new Windows 95 software which delivers a higher margin of profit than Microsoft's previous software.

Amec buys BR service

AMEC has bought British Rail's South West Infrastructure Maintenance Company, which provides maintenance, engineering and construction services in the geographic area bounded by London, Hastings, East Sussex, and Exeter in Devon, and including Victoria and Waterloo mainline stations. Amec, the international construction and engineering group, is paying £11 million for the business, which employs 2,200 people. South West IMC's principal customer is Railtrack, which accounts for about 70 per cent of turnover.

Laing wins £100m deal

JOHN LAING, the construction group, has been awarded a £100 million contract to build the shell of the National Superdrome sports, entertainment, convention and exhibition complex in Bradford. Laing, one of three contractors shortlisted for the project, will also have the opportunity to negotiate fitting-out work worth a further £100 million. Preparatory work on the 70-acre site at Odsal begins later this month. Superdome will provide a 65,000-seat sports complex, two hotels, a multi-screen cinema and shopping mail. Laing shares were unchanged at 322p yesterday.

Halifax buys loan book

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY has purchased the £340 million UK residential mortgage book of France's Banque Paribas. The purchase maintains Halifax Home Loans, a wholly-owned subsidiary, as one of the UK's largest centralised lenders, with assets of more than £3 billion. Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Halifax, said: "Acquisition of good quality mortgage books continues to be a logical move by Halifax in a highly competitive mortgage market and complements the organic growth of the society." Paribas will now concentrate on its specialist financial services activities.

Courtaulds tests Japan

TOURIST RATES

8ank Buys 2.04 17.03 49.87 0.751 9.42 7.74 8.15 2.43 388.00 12.38 1.02 2.488.00 176.30 0.593 10.42 245.00 10.50 10

COURTAULDS, the UK chemicals and fibres company, has moved to get its revolutionary man-made Lyocell yarn into the Japanese market. Courtaulds and Akzo Nobel, its development partner, have agreed with Japan's Asahi Chemical Company to assess the potential demand in Japan. Made from wood pulp, Lyocell filament fabrics look like silk and feel like cashmere, but are said to be strong as denim. Akzo Nobel is producing the fibre in Obernburg, Germany. Courtaulds' contribution and product know-how comes from Tencel, its Lyocell staple fibre.

SBC Warburg or sessean con on behalf of

Agreed Offer by

TR Pacific Investment Trust PLC (incorporated in England, number 2153093; registered as an investment company under Section 266 Companies Act 1985) for the whole of the ordinary share capital of

Thornton Asian Emerging Markets Investment Trust plc Up to \$7.500,000 pomental of TR Pacific Ordinary Shares and up to \$10,000,000 pomental of TR Pacific "C" Shares
SRA Warburg amnounces on behalf of TR Pacific low-among Trust PLC, "TR Pacific" than by means of a formal offer document othe
"Offer Document" (dated and despatched on 1% April 19%), 581 Warburg to making an access other (the "Offer") on behalf of
TR Pacific to acquire all the ordinary shares of 10p each in Thornton Asian Emerging Markets Investment Trust pic ("TAFMIT") in
reason of 1% April 19%, or allorted or issued prior to the date on which the Offer closes for such earlier date, not being earlier than the
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CN&C seeking out candidates for acquisition

CLARKE. Nickolis & Coombs, the revitalised property investment company. said yesterday that acquisitions and mergers remain a high priority.

The company, whose chief executive is Richard Mais. has increased the final dividend 50 per cent to 0.15p. making a total of 0.27p (0.2p). Pre-tax profits rose to £1.5 million in 1995 from El.2 million previously, while earnings rose to

0.82p a share (0.68p). During the year, a 22 per cent shareholding was taken by institutional investors, including M&G, HSBC, Thornton and Glaxo Trustees. Richard Upton, chairman, and Andrew Nedham, property director, control Longworth Investments, which acquired a 29.9 per cent stake.

refining in Europe BY CARL MORTISHED SHELL the Anglo-Dutch oil company, said yesterday that it would cut back its refining capacity in Europe. Cur

Shell to cut back on

Herkströter, group chairman. said that the company intended to reduce overcapacity. particularly in France, while expanding refining operations

in South-East Asia.

The company would not give details of how the reduction would be achieved, but market speculation is centred on Berre L'Etang, a small French refinery with 127,000 barrels per day of distillation capacity. Shell has already announced plans to reduce its operations at Shellhaven in

Among European countries,

France suffers most from refining and marketing overca-pacity. Total, the French oil company, recently indicated that it was interested in a joint venture to cut capacity. Nick Antill. oil analyst at BZW. said that there was a reluctance among oil companies to act alone in cutting refining operations because of the prospect of then being forced to supply their own petrol stations with gasoline from rival sources.

Noises from Shell about action on refining come after BP's restructuring of its American and European refineries and a \$5 billion pan-European joint venture with Mobil in relining and marketing fuels and lubricants.

New GKN chief executive

By Clare Stewart

GKN, the engineering group. has confirmed the long awaited appointment of a new chief executive.

It has named Chung Kong Chow, at present managing director and chief executive of BOC Gases, the largest part of the BOC group.

GKN has been looking for a new chief executive since Sir David Lees last year announced his intention to split his role as chairman and chief executive. Sir David welcomed the appointment. "At a time when GKN is pursuing new opportunities for growth

in global markets, he will add of BOC Gases, which last year an important international dimension to our top manage-E374.2 million.

ment team," he said. It is the first time GKN has appointed an outsider to its top job. However, it denied its six-month search for a chief executive has taken longer than anticipated. A spokes-man said: The aim was always to have an announcement before this year's AGM.

so we are on schedule." Mr Chow, who was born in Hong Kong, joined BOC Group in 1977 and is credited with the strong performance saw profits rise 13 per cent to

His departure from the group is not unexpected. He missed out on the top job at BOC with the appointment of Danny Rosencrantz as group chief executive in January. Mr Chow is expected to join GKN some time before his official start date of January 1997 Mr Rosencrantz will assume responsibility for the running of BOC Gases

GKN shares rose 9p to 992p, while BOC ended at

POWER STRUGGLE National Power,

Britain's largest electricity generator, is preparing for a battle royal against a determined corporate aggressor ---Southern Group of Atlanta - which is poised to launch a near-£7 billion

transform the UK power game ... 9 Business Focus - The Sunday Times tomorrow

bid that would

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: PHILLIP THORPE

An able protector on the investment front line

Robert Miller

IME NATURDAY APRIL 20 10%

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talks to the Kiwi charged with ensuring that investors can sleep easy

hillip Thorpe is the custodian of £1,000 billion. He is not a tycoon and the money is not his. Nevertheless, if any of it goes missing he will be held accountable, and the chances of him keeping his job as a senior City watchdog will be slim indeed. If he gets it right, however, we all get to sleep easier.
The 41-year-old New Zea-

lander is chief executive of a body known by the cumber-some title of the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation - more simply identified by its acronym of Imro. Thorpe's beat as a frontline regulator is to ensure that those charged with looking after money invested on our behalf in pension funds or unit and investment trusts do so properly. Sadly, his brief does not stretch to how well the money managers perform.

Thorpe, who has practised as a solicitor and a barrister, is well aware of the pitfalls in his job. If there is one constant nightmare it is that of a latenight call to tell him a "black hole" has appeared in a pension fund. Thorpe knows all about that. He got his present job in July 1993 with the express instruction to save Imro from extinction after the Robert Maxwell affair.

Imro regulated Bishopsgate investment Management and London and Bishopsgate Investment Management, two of the companies that looked after the Maxwell pension funds and in which there was an unexplained shortfall of

Imro was heavily criticised by MPs, pensioners, consumer groups and just about everybody else. Thorpe recalls: "I came in because there was a great deal of doubt about the future of imro and there was a that low point. Iniro has made up lost ground, so much so that Thorpe started this week by launching a radical blueprint for the way in which his charges are regulated in the future and, more importantly, how consumers need to be

better informed. On Monday, he started the ball rolling on what is likely to be a long-term project. It has certainly occupied most of this week with a series of meetings, presentations and phone calls to explain the result of Imro's research. And those results



Wine and poses: Phillip Thorpe, chief executive of Imro, who mixes his vital City watchdog role with a spot of viticulture as owner of a vineyard in the Loire region

invested their money serious food for thought.

Thorpe, whose first job on leaving New Zealand was a two-year stint in the tiny island republic of Nauru, in the South Pacific, as public prosecutor, film censor and registrar of births, deaths and marriages, says: "It is time to recognise and address the fact that the achievement of adequate investor protection by conventional financial regulation alone remains an elusive, and probably unattainable, 20al. Investors must be better prepared for the financial decisions they must take."
Thorpe adds: "Financial

regulation is actually a social policy. Whichever government is in power it is an inescapable fact that people are having to make more and more provision for themseives, rather than rely on the State. This applies to pensions and retirement as much as long-term care and critical illness policies." The bottom line for Thorpe and his fellow regulators is "that people do not want

Thorpe, who studied

politics and law, was enticed to the UK in 1989 by Christopher Sharples, former head of the Securities and Futures Authority, a fellow watchdog with responsibility for brokers and futures dealers. Thorpe had moved to Hong Kong from Nauru in 1981 to work for the colony's Government. He moved rapidly up the promo-tion ladder and in October 1987 was appointed chief executive of the Hong Kong Fu-tures Exchange to assist it

through the aftermath of the worldwide stock market crash. Thorpe says of his time in Hong Kong: "It was a very interesting period and I was introduced to some extremely unsavoury characters. But knowing someone is bent is different from proving it."

It is this theree of proof that is exercising Thorpe and his fellow regulators in the UK. "In disciplinary proceedings we have to provide a very high level of proof that is sometimes even more demanding than in a criminal case."

On Thursday, Thorpe was delighted when the SFA confirmed that it was considering making details of its disciplinary proceedings more transparent. The SFA decision came after an earlier public outery over an investigation into the role played by senior executives at Barings before the crash. The SFA announced that Peter Baring, the former chairman, had agreed that he would never work in the City again, while his deputy, Andrew Tuckey, had agreed to play a restricted role. It subsestricted role meant retiring at 52 on an annual pension of around £120,000 and that he could expect to receive a further sum of some £110,000 for consultancy work at ING Barings.

The public perception was that the two most senior men in charge of the 233-year-old the £860 million crash, and who had, albeit unwittingly, benefited from handsome bonuses based on Nick Leeson's bogus trading, had got off scot-free. Wrong but nevertheless understandable. As Thorpe

says, to bring a full-blown disciplinary case and prove that "an act of misconduct" has been committed is becoming even more difficult in these increasingly litigious times.

Sharples says of Thorpe: "He has energy and undoubted talents, but he has a habit of sheering off at a tangent and needs to be brought back on track." This habit was evident

last summer when Thorpe let it be widely known that he intended to be savagely critical of the role played by the Securities and Investments Board, the most senior City watchdog, when he gave evidence to the Commons Treasury Select Committee to back his previously submitted written evidence. Suitably briefed,

fly. They waited in valn. Afterwards, Thorpe, who has five children from two marriages, said that he felt "constrained and unable to say all ! wanted to". The allegation was that he had been gagged by Charles Nunneley, the Imro chairman on the instructions of Andrew Large, the SIB chairman. Both parties strongdenied the allegation.

Thorpe felt his job was under threat and said at the time: "I felt it was difficult to reconcile the substantial differences between the written submission and my answer to questions" at the Commons. The committee then considered whether a witness had been tampered with and thus whether a breach of parliamentary privilege had occurred. In the end,

dropped. Thorpe had

Thorpe's fellow regulators delivered equally damning verdicts on the SIB's role in City regulation but did so in a somewhat more restrained this week: "The SIB has restructured and we the frontline regulators are being allowed the room to get on and do our job," Whether last summer's outburst has affected Thorpe's long-term prospects of achieving a higher position in the pecking order remains to be seen, but at least he tackled the issues head-on as he has done again this week, albeit in a milder way.

f he were to quit. Thorpe has another business to go into and even this week he was making sure that he attended to it when he had the time. Thorpe owns a vineyard in the Loire region of France where his two young children live with his wife Melinda or Mel. a former stockbroker. The 22½-acre vineyard produces some 5,000 cases of bubbly and a still Chenin blanc. Customers now include top restaurants such as Le Manoir Aux Quat Saisons, L'Ortolan, near Reading, and RSJ in London.

If Thorpe were to quit the regulatory scene investors would undoubtedly lose an able and charismatic protector who still has a lot to offer. He seems unfazed at the prospect and even less so that he might not sell all of his wine. As he says: "I can always drink it."

HIDDENSSETS

Courtaulds' silver shines through the generations

Visitors to the Court-auld Galleries at Somerset House may be drawn by an impressive collection of elegant silverware displayed in the anteroom to the Great Room upstairs. The fine silver pieces are notable for their superb modelling, their simplicity and their restraint Perhaps most notable of all is that they were made by three generations of the Courtauld family, between 1710 and 1778.

It is only recently that the silverware has been brought together in its entirety. The collection has been built up over the past 70 years and is now one of the most significant private collections in the country, consisting of high-quality pieces that show all the best standards of work associated with refugee Huguenot goldsmiths of the period.

Augustin Courtauld IV, a French merchant, arrived with his family in 1687 from Ile

d'Oleron near La Rochelle. He apprenticed two of his sons to the master goldsmith Simon Pantin. The elder son, also Augustin, served under Pantin from 1701 until 1708, before establishing his own pre-mises in St Martin-in-the-Fields. Augustin cornered the market in supplying the London aristocracy with silver vessels for the new

drinks of the day

also developed an important line in two-handled cups. One, dated 1714, bears an inscription recording the friendship between Robert Boyle (1627-1715), of the Royal Society, and Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury

His business did well and his son, Samuel, born in 1720, also served in his

father's workshop. Sarauel on the more sumptuous domestic pieces in the collection, including a 1748 rococo 1751 soup tureen with applied foliage and rams' feet. Samuel moved his premises to Cornhill as the business expanded, but he died in 1765, aged 45. After only 19 years in the craft, he had status as his father. His widow, Louisa, with

style. Examples include a restrained and finely decorated bread basket, dated 1771, and a further series of two-handled cups and cov-

joined her in the business until 1780 when it was sold, so ending the family tradition.

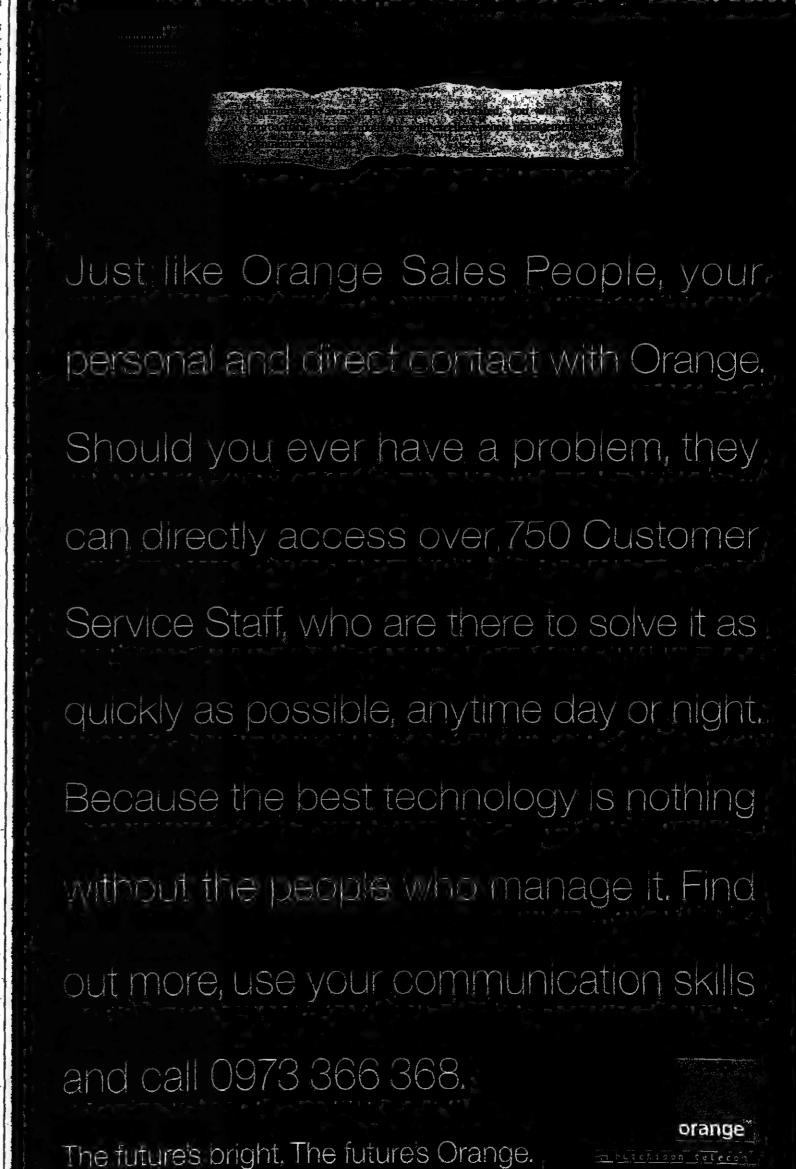
The collection has recently been crowned with the inclusion of a silver gilt cup and cover bearing the joint marks of Louisa and Samuel II. Her other son, George, was ap-prenticed to a silk throwster in Spitalfields and began the with the silk industry from which Courtaulds and Courtaulds Textiles ultimately

Courtauld's mark appears tea kettle and stand and a

"The collection makes a point about the quality of design and the high standards of craftsmanship of Court-auld," says David Stevens,

deputy company secretary of Courtaulds. "It is something we would certainly like to keep intact — it shows we have been around for three centuries now, and we would like to be around for a" little bit longer yet."

JOANNA PITMAN





Wm Morrison could be next target in store wars

MICHAEL CLARK

their hopes on a further contraction of the food retailing market.

Whispers circulating in the Square Mile yesterday claimed that J Sainsbury or Argyll, the Safeway supermarket chain, may be about to pounce on Wm Morrison Supermarket, one of the few remaining independent food retailers.

Shares of Morrison touched 177p at one stage, before ending the session 7p better at a new high of 171p.

By the close of business almost four million shares had changed hands in a market which is so thin that traders will normally only quote a price for 25,000 shares

The latest burst of speculation follows revived talk that Ken Morrison, the chairman and managing director, wants to call it a day and may be looking for a buyer for his stake. The speculators see this as opening the door to a predator.

At the last count, Mr Morrison directly owned 91.4 million shares, or almost 13 per cent of the trader's issued share capital.

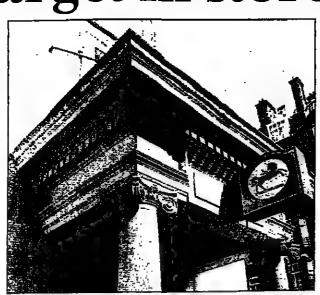
City speculators have been saying for some time that Morrison would eventually go the same way as William Low, which was snapped up two years ago by Tesco.

Sainsbury is seen as the favourite candidate to make a bid in order to regain market share from Tesco. Sainsbury itself ended 312p lower at 361 2p, with Argyll 5p firmer at 334p and Tesco ip dearer at

The rest of the equity market resumed its record-breaking run, fuelled by a number of factors that ranged from American buying and the absence of institutional sellers to the expiry of the April options. The latter forced hard-pressed market-makers to try to cover exposed

positions.W With fund managers refusing to turn sellers, however, their task was made that much more difficult. Stock shortages still persist and this is expected to continue driving prices higher.

The FT-SE 100 index ended the week on a high note, closing at its best of the day with a rise of 36.4 to an alltime high of 3,857.1. This stretches the rise on the week



A takeover setback saw Lloyds TSB share price slip

to 91 points, or 2.4 per cent. A total of 910 million shares were traded.

Once again there was a liberal sprinkling of takeover talk among leading shares, which helped to keep sentiment on the boil. Thorn EMI rose another 33p to £18.13 on persistent talk that a bid may be imminent. Time Warner of the US, or Viacom, are said to

it emerged that Westpac, the Australian bank, had stepped in with a NZ\$1.27 billion (£574 million) offer for Trust Bank of New Zealand. Trust Bank said its eight community trusts, accounting for 76 per cent of the shares, had decided to accept the offer, which tops terms previously negotiated by Lloyds TSB. Lloyds TSB was 12p lighter at 32712p.

British Gas was the second most actively traded stock in the top 100, with 21 million shares traded as the price rose 10p to 250 2p. Once again there is talk that BP may bid for British Gas. where 7,000 contracts were recorded on the traded options market among the September 200p series, equivalent to a further 7 million shares.

be poised to bid £23 a share. Bid speculation in Cable & Wireless boiled over as the price retreated 412p to 54112p. This follows reports that the Chinese Government may drag its feet and take upwards of a year to agree the proposed merger between the company and BT, its biggest finished 112p rival, which

lighter at 3771 ap. Lloyds TSB's attempt to secure a hat-trick of acquisitions suffered a serback when

The rerating continues apace at Williams Holdings. the fast growing industrial conglomerate, shares breached their 12month high with a rise of 5p to

BET. the subject of an unwanted £2.1 billion from Rentokil, slipped 3p to 20212p. as its hopes of retaining its independence took a turn for the better, M&G investment Management, with a 7.5 per cent stake, has pledged its

MOVERS	OF THE WEEK
Carrent griss onal Power	weet's change + 100p Proposed bid by Southern - 34p Awaiting National Power bid + 29p NatWest buy recommendation + 15p Positive presentation to brokers + 21p
ns Motors	+61pHitting the acquisition trail +12pShares return from suspension

COMMODITIES

the improved terms from Clive Thompson's Rentokil. The terms of Rentokil's offer are now worth 217p a share. valuing the entire company at New York (midday):

Tokyo: Nikkei Average

Hong Kong:

Amsterdam:

Frankfurt:

Singapore

Paris:

London

FT-SE-A 350 .

FT Govr Secs ...

FT-SE Eurotrack 100 1655.01 (+5.90)

Bank of England official close (4)

British Smaller Co's 95

Cambridge Wit NV 257

Cap for Co's VCT (100) 95

Dicom Group (270) 320

Easynet Group (100) 100

Gartmore VCT 96 Guirness Flight VCT 95

Hili Smi UK Emg Cos 96':

Hurlingham Props 80

Taverners Trust Uts 518

Barratt Dev n/p (200) 80

Bernrose n/p (325) 60

Cap Reg 675% ULS n/p 51:

Estates & Gen n/p (60) 7':

Guinness Peat n/p (30) 61

Tepnel Life n/p (40) 15

Flare n/p (150)

RIGHTS ISSUES

MAJOR CHANGES

Friendly Hotels 189p (+14p)

Br Alrways 558p (+21p)

Scotla 735p (+26p)

Ranger 490p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 41

..... 5560 (-80)

Cardcast (85)

Cliveden (73)

FI Group (235)

ILP Group (75)

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.. 151.5 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987=100 ... 150.9 Mar (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

2536.52 (+).00)

2309.33 (+11.41)

2885.2 (+38.1)

... 92.55 (+0.26

210.73 (+0.09) 1.5173 (+0.0093)

M&G describes BET's longterm prospects as attractive and says the best results will be obtained by the company maintaining its independence. The bid still has a week left

to run. While the move by M&G will come as a setback to Rentokil's cause, most brokers believe that the odds are still stacked against BET.

Clive Thompson was scath ing of BET's performance. He said the group had once again failed to "clarify issues that are key to its future performance". Rentokil eased 3p to 352p.

Premier Farnell, formerly Farnell Electronics until its recent £1.8 billion acquisition of Premier Industries in the US, put in a late spurt to finish 27p up on the day at 717p ahead of full-year figures on

The group has already forecast pre-tax profits up from E62 million to E75 million.

Queens Moat extended this week's run with a rise of 2p to 31p after announcing plans to dispose of a total of 25 hotels. Of this number, 19 trade under the County name, with the remainder included as part of the Moat House chain. The proceeds from the sale will be used to reduce debt. 🖾 GILT-EDGED: The London market took its lead

from German bunds to end the week on a firm note. Brokers described trading conditions as less volatile than of late, with investors looking cautiously ahead at next

week's auction and retail sales numbers. Demand was weighted towards the shorter end of the market-place, resulting in a steepening of the yield curve. In the futures pit, the June

series of the Long Gilt climbed £1332 to £1061e as the number of contracts completed contracted to 41,000. Among conventional issues,

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose E716 to E98, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was seven ticks better at £102732. □ NEW YORK: Wall Street followed bonds and the dollar higher on the back of hightechnology shares. Microsoft's better than expected thirdquarter profits helped the Dow Jones industrial average 3.97 points higher at 5,555.71. LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

MAJOR INDICES **TEMPUS** 5555.71 (+3.97)

Good case for airing

FUND managers are not the City's biggest self-publicists, but after years of silence they seem to want their voices heard. That is a good thing. The tabloid vilification suffered by Mercury Asset Management's fund manager after her decision to back Granada's bid for Forte might have given some pause for thought. But there are good reasons why fund managers should put up with the knocks.

M&G, usually a silent investor that backs its management long term, decided yesterday to go one step further and declare its love for BET in a very public way. Being the largest shareholder, M&G's vote is important, but its 7 per cent is not decisive.

Its decision to publish its reasons suggests that M&G believes the case for the defence has not been properly aired and the fund manager's hearty pat on the back for John

Clark is a clear rejection of recent criticism of BET's boss.

BET is typical M&G stock; an underperformer in recovery after new management has taken over. Rentokii, on the other hand, is not. The latter is a highly rated growth share and M&G prefers to seek latent, rather than (over)exposed value. The fund managerbelieves BET has much more growth in it, and M&G's declaration may encourage other fund managers of a similar view.

There is a hint of something undemocratic about the traditional reluctance of fund managers to debate issues in public. There is no reason why they should be forced to declare their hands, but as guardians of our financial future the public has an interest in knowing why fund managers make their decisions. We need more M&G-style declarations.

Hanson

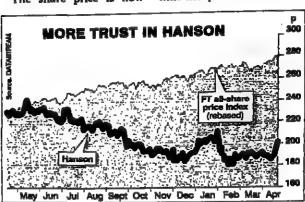
THE prospect of Hanson's demise or, to be precise, its disintegration into four, is making analysts' hearts grow fonder. That will be a relief to the management who, having seen the com-pany ridiculed for lack of focus, decided to break up Hanson, only to watch in despair as the share price fell 15 per cent or more.

Three factors seem to be at work in the rerating, the first having more to do with the market bull run than the company. The dreadful performance of Hanson shares since the demerger was announced in January has been accentuated by the market's advance and for that reason alone the stock need ed a correction.

More important has been some serious attention to break-up valuations. On a

pushing at the margins of basis, the conservative the valuation, but these busishares could be worth 207p nesses now need to be seen with energy - comprising as independent trading enti-Eastern, the regional electricties. Each have substantial ity company, and Peabody positions in their respective mining - representing 70p of the total. Chemicals could industries and were their shares to trade at less than worth over 45p. Imperial fair value, bidders would tobacco 38p and the rump soon take advantage. At cur-Hanson building materials rent levels, Hanson looks a company over 50p.

The share price is now



Millennium

MILLENNIUM and Copthorne has timed its floration well. The hotel business cycle is entering its third year and such upswings tend to last about seven years. Momentum in the sector is strong. largely because few new properties have opened since the late 1980s.

That will change, of course. As occupancy rates increase, the anticipated investment return on a new hotel improves and developers will haul their cranes out of storage and set them to work.

In the meantime, Millennium and Copthorne Hotels. appears to be a safe bet at the lio is well spread - most of its properties are in London. Paris and New York — and it caters for business travellers whose budgets generate better yields for hotel operators. Furthermore. Transatlantic travel is increasing, creating more demand for beds.

Millennium's biggest

DOLLAR RATES

British Airways

challenge is the Plaza hotel,

the faded but still glamorous

Manhattan landmark last

owned by Donald Trump.

The company owns 42 per

pumping money into its reno-

vation. If the hotel can be

made to earn a decent profit,

the shares could have a nice

cent of the Plaza and is

A CODE-SHARING deal with the ninth largest US airline is a less impressive arrangement than an alliance with American Airlines, the carrier with which British Airways has been engaged in on-off talks.

fers BA access to a potential 12 million potential passengers compared with American's 60 million but the deal is not to be sneezed at.

BA has commenced a daily service from Gatwick to Phoenix, Arizona, the hub of the American West network which should provide a feed

of passengers to BA from the Southwestern United States. That complements BA's existing arrangement with US Air, a predominantly East Coast airline.

Code sharing deals are the airline equivalent of dating and investors should expect such flirtations to give way to more formal alliances or akeovers between airlines. While airline profitability is growing through increased business traffic, the industry is gripped by fear of the next downturn and the probability that weaker carriers will: not survive or be reduced to regional status.

The recent decision by the troubled Swissair to cut back example of the trend. The expectation that BA will emerge price rising but it is still rated at a hefty discount. That seems ungenerous given the prospect of above-average

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

WALL STREET

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In search of a safe house for savers

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MATHS CLASS 32

Do your sums on school fees add up?



Are you on the right track?

Marianne Curphey considers

the £1.8bn sale of Railtrack

s it going to be the sale of the century or a privatisation dogged by risk and regulatory interference? Barring a last-minute disaster, the great Railtrack sell-off looks set to be oversubscribed when applications lose next month. Smaller investors are being tempted by estimates of a total yield of between 14 and 20 per cent. while the City has watched Railtrack's price tag drop from £2 billion to around £1.8 billion because of political uncertainty and now believes the share offer will be fairly

Institutional investors running index-tracking funds will have to hold Railtrack shares in their portfolio, which will push up demand for stock when it is first floated.

Publicly, institutions are talking down the deal, hoping to drive the offer price down even further before flotation. Railtrack will go on a series of roadshows next week in an attempt to convince the City that it has the assets and the management skills necessary to pull off the deal.

Few in the Square Mile are about the stock's performance in the long term, but most agree that it looks a good short-term bet.

Audrey Lowrie, a director on HSBC's UK equities desk, said: "The dividend yield is very attractive for small investors, particularly in the first

She believes that there could also be an opportunity for stagging — selling shares on the first day of trading to take advantage of pent-up demand. Stags made thousands of pounds in 24 hours when the

first tranche of British Telecom shares were floated in 1985. When Orange was floated last month, it joined the FT-SE 100 index very quickly and was in demand from institu-tions for their index-tracking funds. Stags made up to 35p per share in the first day.

Undeterred by the political row, more than 900,000 people have registered with the 10,000 Share Shops in Britain for the Railtrack issue.

in an attempt to guard against the flotation becoming a public relations disaster, the Government is giving small investors a better deal than the large institutions, and at least individuals.



There is always a risk in tracking any privatised company, and Railtrack has more than its fair share of politically driven uncertainties

THE RISKS

ow likely is it that if Labour wins the next election, it will try to Threnationalise the organisation? Analysts believe that because the Government is selling off all of its stake in the organisation — instead of retaining 49 per cent of shares as it did in previous sell-offs such as electricity — Tony Blair will be unwilling and unlikely to attempt to buy back the whole of Railtrack. Such a measure would be a difficult, time-consuming and costly exercise which would alienate small shareholders and large institutional

Instead, Labour is far more likely to tighten the powers of the regulator and introduce restrictive rules on contracts and charges which could stunt Railtrack's earnings capacity. Labour gives warning in a three-page policy statement in the Railtrack pathfinder prospectus that it is concerned at the high-track access charges that Railtrack is allowed to levy in order to charges if it is returned to government at the general election.

THE REWARDS

Dayment for Railtrack shares will be in two instalments over 13 months, each in a different tax year, and the return on fully-paid shares is expected to be between 6 and 7 per cent - slightly above the yield on privatised utilities. The first instalment for investors in the UK public offer is 190p per share. Since individual investors do not have to pay for their shares in full until June 1997, if returns in the first year average around 7 per cent, they will receive the equivalent of a 14 per cent return. A total final dividend for the financial year 1995-96 will be paid on October 4 this year to all shareholders on the register at a specified date, which is likely to be September this year.

Railtrack proposes that this will be equivalent to about £69 million. For the

second instalment, those who subscribe through Share Shops for the public offer will be offered the choice of a discount worth up to £120 or a bonus of one free share for every 15 bought. These incentives could be worth a further 4 to 6 per cent, making a potential total return of around 20 per cent, though this is by no means guaranteed.

Just when we had it figured

nvestors were yet again treated to a display of the unpredictabil-ity of markets this week when the London stock market refused to ing news and instead concentrated on the good (Karen Zagor writes).

The week started on a strong note

as London responded to a record close on Wall Street. Investors looking to reinvest their personal equity plans put money into London, which helped to lift the FT-SE 100 to 3,790.5, a gain of 23.7 points.

Tuesday saw the FT-SE 100 close at a record 3,825.3, helped by an enthusiastic response to news that National Power, Britain's biggest power generator, had been put into play. Its shares climbed 312p to 5212p, and the partly paid shares gained 30p to 387p in frenzied trading amid rumours that the company was the target of a bid from Southern, an American utility. Wednesday was gloomy, with depressing economic news taking the wind out of the market's sails. Unemployment had fallen more sharply than expected, while average earnings had risen, putting an end to speculation that interest rates might fall further. That was compounded when it emerged that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had considered raising rates at their last monthly economic meeting. Yet the FT-SE 100 responded by losing just 19.7 points on the day, barely a blip on the scale of stock market losses

One bright spot was National Power, which jumped a further 56½ p to 578p on confirmation of the takeover bid by Southern.

On Thursday, the FT-SE 100 retraced most of its previous day's losses, reflecting a surprise halfpoint cut in German interest rates and ignoring a substantial drop on Wall Street. By Friday afternoon, the FT-SE 100 ended the week having set another record (see page 28).

> Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

HOW TO DEAL

The minimum investment in the UK public offer for individuals only - will be 200 shares. With the first instalment costing 190p a share, the minimum payment will be £380. Under a separate offer, institutional investors will pay more per share. The exact price will not be announced until May 1.

The second instalment is payable on June 3, 1997, and will be the same for both the UK public offer and the international offer. Investors will have a better idea of the cost when the full prospectus is published on May I.

Individuals can also apply for the retail tender, which is on the same terms as the international offer, does not qualify for discounts, has a minimum investment of £3,000 for the first instalment and is for people who want to buy large share allocations.

Share Shops will not charge a fee for investors applying for Railtrack shares, because they are paid a fee by the Government. However, there are varying charges when you come to sell your stock.

The Share Centre (0800

800008) is currently offering a "family" deal, whereby applications for shares from the same address are bundled together and can be sold for a single fee. The selling commission is I per cent, with a minimum charge of £7.50. Investors can also put their shares into a Pep. Barclays also offers this deal by post for a fee of I per cent, with a £7.50 minimum. City Deal (01708) 742288) will charge a flat fee of £5 for dealing in Railtrack shares up to a value of £3,000. and £15 thereafter. This offer also applies to buying and selling shares in Eurotunnel

THE ADVICE

S tockbrokers and financial advisers are divided over the merits of the offer. Phillip Epsley, at Albert E Sharp, the stockbroker, says there are unanswered questions over the fate of the company's debt and how much the Government intends to subsidise

Railtrack with public funds. The projections are very difficult at this stage as to the profit the company is going to make, but there is massive

scope for cost-cutting," he said. Mark Bolland, an independent financial adviser with Chamberlain de Broe, said: "The 14 per cent yield, if it materialises, is very good. Few investments, except perhaps foreign government bonds, come close to bettering that. Railtrack is a huge landowner and its property interests should provide a good yield. However, you are still buying into open ended liability. Labour say the fabric of the network is too valuable to leave in private hands and although they will not renationalise it, they could make it

very unattractive." Matthew Orr, of Killik & Co, says the dividends look attractive on the partly paid

He said: "In the long term. Railtrack could expand its retail development at stations and create large shopping centres at railway stations, as BAA did with airports.

"Political uncertainty is holding back the price but even a 7 per cent yield is better than building society deposit rates currently available. However, if you have never invested in equities before, this share issue is not necessarily the right one for you. It is more already has a large, well-

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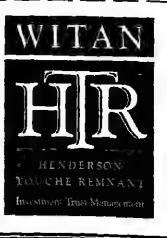
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Having a say at the AGM

Back in 1962, the Jenkins commit-tee on company law recommend-ed, among much else, that a shareholder's appointed proxy should be able to speak at a company meeting, as well as cast the vote. A third of a century later, the Department of Trade and Industry is still agonising over this breathtaking innovation. Shareholder Communications at the Annual General Meeting, its new consultation paper, still implies this might be a step too far.

Can this be the same department that it goils blowing up the see industry in

is gaily blowing up the gas industry, in the hope that the pieces might fall back in a theoretically better pattern? The difference is that details of company law are usually left to officials who perennially give great weight to any possible risk of reform. Anything goes when change has a political or bureaucratic priority. Whitehall caution has much to commend it, but there are limits.

Company meetings have decayed so far from their formal function of making directors accountable to shareholders that most companies think them an expensive waste of time. Fund managers boycott them. Most private investors do not bother because they know their voice rarely counts. Paul Myners' DTI-sponsored City/Industry working group was tempted to suggest abolishing compulsory AGMs. It stepped back, in favour of reform, perhaps only because of the inevitable political charge that small shareholders would be gagged.

The proxy issue has arisen anew because even funds now often hold shares via nominee custodians. They have suggested an alternative change to



allow them to exercise their rights. This problem should be dealt with by a specific new rule, but all minor measures to help investors overcome nominee problems should be tried. Unlike the gas revolution, they can always be reversed.

The paper's main theme, reflecting a select committee report that spawned it, is to make it easier for shareholders to put down resolutions at company mettings and to ask questions that will get answers. There are cost issues here. If companies have to circulate resolutions at common expense, as they should, it costs a lot if they are too late to go out with the annual report. But that rules out resolutions stemming from the report. Perhaps these could be handled

in advance-notice questions. Compromises have to be made. Directors and officials worry more that rules friendlier to shareholders will be exploited by the special interest groups that disrupt annual meetings of many multi-nationals and high-profile companies.

This conflict cannot be ducked. Any democratic improvements for shareholders are bound to be exploited by troublemakers who have little interest in returns to investors. By the same immutable law, any restrictions imposed to curb the vertatious will be exploited by arrogant company boards

to stifle the real voice of shareholders. Risks are worth taking here too. The textbook vision of shareholder democracy has long vanished. The vast majority of shares are controlled by faceless corporate funds. Active private shareholders will use nominee accounts. Most of them will give up non-financial rights, faced with a choice between exercising them or saving money, unless companies offer tangible benefits.

If company boards are to be more accountable, it will be via some unalluring form of representative democracy, in which individuals use pressure groups to influence the votes of institutional shareholders. Investors will need to make sure these pressure groups reflect their views, not just the

latest agitprop political correctness. By this means, however, we might again allow boards to reflect the morals of their shareholders, not just the amorality of the economic man. At first. though, investor power would doubtless focus on the mean-spirited issue of directors' pay. Yet it might not be a bad idea if dozens of companies were confronted with identical resolutions asking that top pay be limited to, say, 25 times the lowest on the payroll — and fund managers had to explain if they opposed

Karen Zagor on making the most of money in matrimony



With all my worldly goods

got married in the waning days of the tax year were able to collect two full

allowance. The recent surge in sum-

mer and autumn weddings may be a

result of less generous tax laws. There

are no longer any tax advantages to getting married in the spring, while the married couple's allowance has been whittled back to almost nothing.

James Higgins of Chamberlain De Broe, the independent financial adviser.

urges couples to concentrate on the

"until death (or divorce) do us part"

element of the union. "Financial plan-ning needs to be done on a regular basis

so that the couple know exactly where

they are in terms of assets and debts.

Many marriages end in divorce simply

PENSIONS

FIONA PRICE says this is one of the few areas where being married has a financial advantage. If your spouse is in a company pension scheme, you will almost certainly be entitled to a widow or widower's pension if your partner dies. This privilege is not always extended to unmarried partners. James Higgins suggests considering writing death benefits of pensions in trust, or at least nominating your spouse as a beneficiary so that any death benefits are paid quickly. If there is no trust or nomination of death benefit, there may be a delay in the survivor receiving benefits

while the estate is in probate. Only net relevant earnings There are tax benefits for nension contributions, so if a couple can afford to fund only one pension, it usually makes sense to fund one for the higher rate taxpayer.

PROPERTY

IF both partners already own separate properties, they should each be able to continue to claim Mortgage Interest Relief At Source (Miras), provided one of the properties is sold within 12 months of vacating. If one of the properties is let, you will be able to claim the mortgage interest as an expense.

You cannot keep two properties as your main residence indefinitely. Unless you sell one of the properties within you will have to pay Capital Gains Tax on the sale. A main residence is exempt from this liability.

earned on Certificates repaid in the first year

K enneth Clarke, the Chancellor, boldly proclaimed in the last Budget: "It is a myth that the tax system penalises marriage and that single people are better off than married couples. Any young couple contemplating living together and starting a family will pay less tax by getting married."

Advisers at Fiona Price & Partners would beg to differ. Eileen Dougherty, a tax manager, says: "The advantages of marriage nowadays in tax terms are geared towards relatively wealthy people. They are not much use to ordinary working people on average salaries with an average mortgage and a family to support."

There was a time when couples who

choose in a will. This can be

useful in inheritance tax plan-

ning, but also has its pitfalls, If

you plan to leave the house

outright to your partner, it is

easiest to have the home

jointly owned. Otherwise, in

the event of death, the survivor

must go through probate to

AND TAX

get the house transferred.

who has the higher earnings. If you buy a home together, Each spouse is entitled to their you will need to decide whether to opt for being joint owners own personal allowance of £3.768, which is not transferor beneficial joint tenants. In home becomes the survivor's Street policy unit has said it is considering making personal property if one partner dies. As tenants in common, each allowances transferable bespouse owns half the home tween married couples. and can leave it to anyone they

JOINT ACCOUNTS

JOINT bank accounts are a

couples. Their prime advan-

tage is that they make day-to-

day bill paying infinitely easier. But there are certain dangers. Couples are jointly ALLOWANCES liable for debts and overdrafts, which can be an issue if you are married to a profligate spender. Also, if one partner is MARRIED couples are entiself-employed or has a blighted credit history, the couple may find it difficult to get a mortgage. A solution is to tled to tax relief of only £268 a year, or 15 per cent of the £1.790 allowance for the 1990/97 tax year. The allowhave a joint account for bills. ance can be split between the couple or used by either huscounts to benefit from one

band or wife, depending on partner's more solid credit

record. The main problem with single accounts is that spouses cannot get information about the accounts and, in your spouse's account will be frozen until probate is finished.

INVESTMENTS

SINCE the advent of independent taxation, couples have been able to take advantage of their separate status. Tax on savings and investment inmixed blessing for married come is usually paid at the highest rate, so a higher-rate taxpayer will pay 40 per cent. Fiona Price estimates that a 40 per cent taxpayer can save £7,570 a year on transferred assets of £27,825.

All dividends and interest from gilts and deposits should be paid to the parmer with the lowest marginal tax rate. If one spouse is a non-taxpayer, savings income can be paid gross after filling out a R85 form from a bank or building society. With capital gains tax, transfers can be made between spouses at

This is useful if one partner is close to exhausting their CGT allowance for the year, currently £6.300. Ms Dougherty reach their individual CGT limit for the year, but that men with company shares through executive share option schemes do benefit by transferrring the shares to their wife's name using her

because the couple's finances have got out of hand and the couple find

time, flexibility needs to be maintained

because anything that is in a sole name

can result in difficulty in access for the surving partner if one dies."

existing financial arrangements, as

pensions, savings, investments, insur-ance policies and any debts. From there, you can decide what your

financial priorities are and how to go forward. And remember to tell parents

and grandparents that they can give you up to £5,000 and £2,500, respectively, free of tax.

iona Price & Partners suggests that newlyweds start out by listing their

own investments. "Women tend to buy the food and pay for the holidays and extras while men have the savings."

LIFE

ASSURANCE

CGT limits as well as her

lower tax rate, provided she is

the lower earner. Frances

Hughes, head of family law at

Bates, Wells & Braithwaite

advises women to have their

LIFE Assurance is a necessary evil if the death of one partner would cause financial hardship for the other. Couples should take into account their debts and family needs. A couple with

no debt, no children and no mortgage may not need insurconsider joint lives first death cover. It is also worth exploring insurance on a guaranteed insurability basis, which allows you to get cover if you suffer a heart attack or some other event that might make you uninsurable. To choose a policy, get quotes for single life, joint life first death and family income benefit, which is useful for families with young children. If the cost between two single life and one joint life policy, it is worth considering the single policies which will pay on the death of each partner, providing more

WILLS

AGAIN, being married is an advantage. Spouses do not have to pay inheritance tax when their partner dies, and everything that is held in joint names will pass directly to the survivor. You can also write a will stating that your spouse will inherit everything. Without a will, however, a spouse with no children will only be entitled to the personal chattels, plus a cash sum of £125.000 and a half share of any residue.

Wills are also essential for people with families. They are the only way to determine where the assets will go. Wills allow you to appoint guardians for children. It is relatively inexpensive to have a will drawn up, and can save years

of heartache later. Wills do need to be reviewed regularly as wishes and circumstances will almost inev-

The first vital financial steps if marriage starts to fail

Karen Zagor on how to take

the unnecessary pain out of a divorce settlement

This week the Duke and joined about half of the married population by filing for divorce. Like thousands of other separating couples, the Yorks must begin the long process of untangling their joint fi-nances and reaching an acceptable settlement. Financially, divorce is remarkably similar to marriage. In both instances, couples must look at their pensions, savings, investments, insurance policies and wills.

Frances Hughes, head of family law at solicitors Bates, Wells & Braithwaite, says: There can be great disadvantages to applying for decree absolute before you have sorted the finances." Once divorced you will not, for example, be emitled to a widow or widower's pension and could be left in dire straits unless provisions were made before the divorce was granted.

If your marriage breaks down, your first financial step should be to close all joint accounts before your partner has a chance to embark on a spending spree. Similarly, joint credit cards, loans, overdrafts and HP agreements should be sepa-

rated where possible. If you are not a joint owner or tenant of the family home, Ms Hughes suggests putting a charge on the home without necessarily telling your part-ner. She says: "You are entitled to register your right to occupy at any time. This is a

which will prevent the remortgaged or transferred Ms Hughes courts take a dim view of try to hide assets from

their partner during divorce proceedings. "The courts' view is that the status quo should be maintained during proceed-

ings. If you think your partner may trying to dissipate assets, you should see a solicitor immediately. You can get an order for assets not to leave the jurisdiction and if they already have, you can still have the assets It may well pay to get

independent financial advice before accepting a financial settlement. Given the acrimonious nature of many divorces, it is more important than ever to make sure that your best interests are being considered. If you will be relying on maintenance payments to survive, it is a good idea to consider taking out an insurance policy to protect payments in the event that your ex becomes ill, or dies.

Married women have, traditionally, left themselves vulnerable by relying on their husband's pension. Women in England and Wales may want to wait until July 1 to file for divorce. From then, pension pay-ments will have to be split on retirement and there is pressure on the Government to further amend the rules to split pension rights at the time of divorce. In Scotland, pensions are already included in divorce settlements.

Legal bills can mount quickly during a divorce. You will be charged for every letter and telephone call One solution is to contact the Solicitors' Family Law Association which will put you in touch with a lawyer whose aim is to diffuse anger and to-keep the legal bills in check.

ext year's new laws should end the quickie divorce by ensuring couples are only granted a divorce after a year. It is hoped that during this waiting period the battling spouses will have a chance to cool down, untangle their finances and to avoid expensive courtroom battles over children and possessions, perhaps with the help of mediation. "It is a

very good idea to have counselling in tandem, Ms Hughes. This encourages people to ble decisions way. people are through cir-

cumstances into proceedings they are emotionally ready. Where possible, you should wait to file for divorce until you are. ready and can make more rational decisions which cost

you less money." Divorce is also an important time to consider your will. Your circumstances and desires will almost certainly have changed, and you may want to make provision for your ex. if you part on amicable terms.

National Family Mediation: 0171 383 5993; the Family Mediation Association: 01273 747750; Solicitors' Family La Association: 01689 850221.



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UNIQUE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FROM HM TREASURY

HE TIME, SATURDAY APRIL 20 N The first vital financial steps if marriage starts to fail Karen Zagor m new wake

Side-effects of the Robinson affair

aking the word carpetbagger one of the carchphrases of 1996 will not be the only legacy of Peter Robinson, the late, but seemingly not-muchlamented, thief executive of the Woolwich Building Soci-

ety. His controversial exit from the society, amid allegations of expense abuses, may mean that Woolwich members get a better price for their society.

Suddenly, the Woolwich has become a takeover target, with groups such as BAT, the tobacco company, Midland and Prudential possibly inter-ested in intervening in the flotation process. The Wool-wich has 500 branches and an instantly recognisable brand, the slogan "We're with the Woolwich" having become part of the language a decade before Mr Robinson made his contribution to the argot of the age.

A few Australian and European banks may also be keen, although they were hoping for a cheaper way into the

high streets of Britain. For the Woolwich would be an expensive buy. A bidder would probably have to offer as much as £4 billion, £1 billion more than the society's estimated floration value.

This would increase by a about a quarter the average payout for the society's memhers, the ull-important stakeholders. However, the rules mean that the payments would not be in shares, but in cash, an alternative that some, perhaps with reason. might find less attractive. Since its 1989 change of Abbey National shares have more than quadrupled. In whatever shape the windfall comes, this week's Woolwich annual meeting showed that savers and borrowers want only to

ending of mutuality. This is a point that should bring a pause for thought at societies ceaselessly waxing lyrical about the institution's traditions and values,

know how much. There was

no sentimentality about the



COMMENT ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance

Editor

Besides possibly improving the deal for Woolwich members, another unplanned effect of Mr Robinson's abrupt career change has been to improve the terms for savers at other societies bound for the stock market.

To thwart the carpetbaggers who had moved into the society for a quick gain. Mr Robinson ruled that those who did not have £100 invested at Decem-ber 31, 1995, could not benefit. The angry reaction from longstanding customers whose accounts were below the limit has made other societies nervous about imposing such dead-lines. Indeed, Bristol & West savers without the necessary

£100 can be sure of a share in the Bank of Ireland loot, provided they top up their accounts by the end of the year. Alliance & Leicester savers also have a stay of grace. The Robinson affair reverberations.

No more delays

WE learn this week that something is now being done to speed up the process of compensation for those sold unsuitable personal penwords "not before time" been

more appropriate.

more people were encouraged to leave, or never join. company schemes for inferior personal pensions. More than a third of these are priority cases. To date, however, compensation has been offered to just 7,000 individuals. To remedy this, the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) is at last warning of "serious" disciplinary crackdowns on the life insurance companies and financial advisers who are dragging

The PIA should now be as good as its word, carrying out its previous threat to force offenders to take out full-page advertisements setting out their deficiencies. The body should also use all

other powers at its disposal. There is another worrying aspect to this affair. Thousands are probably still unaware that the pensions they were encouraged to buy are sub-standard products. What is the PIA doing to reach

an independent financial ad-

viser when she was expecting

her first child. "The adviser

said the police scheme could

not be bettered for my hus-

band, as a man, but was not

suitable for me, as a woman,

So she started a personal

pension plan with M&G. Two

years later she found the new

plan did not cover her if she

retired through ill-health or

old one. "Two years later I

had to retire because of chron-

ic asthma. If I had still been

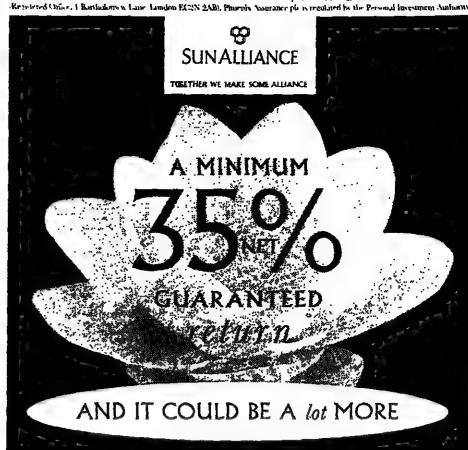
with M&G I would have got

nothing." she said.

cident, so she rejoined the

said Mrs Melville, aged 36.

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Sarah Jones sees hope for mis-sold pension victims

PIA to get tough at last



hope for the millions of victims of pension misselling. It appears that watchdoes can bite, as well as bark, This week the Personal Investment Authority, protector of the private investor, admitted there have been serious delays in the review of personal pension mis-selling. It warned life assurance companies and independent financial advisers dragging their feet that they would be disciplined or even closed down.

This indicates a change of tune by the PIA, which took no action last year against companies that missed the first deadline, to identify priority cases. "No more Mr Nice Guy is a message that we welcome. it's long overdue," said Philip Telford of the Consumers' Association, "However we are still waiting for proof that the regulators are making up for lost time as promised."

The scandal of huge numbers of people being wrongly advised to leave, or not join, company pension schemes in favour of personal pensions came to light three years ago. Nine million personal pen-

scheme voluntary, and 1994. How many pensions were mis-sold is not known. But few pensioners have been compen-

Priority cases, including retired or deceased pensioners and opted-out pensioners aged over 35 and still in the same employment, should have been identified by last December. Another deadline approaches: non-joiners over 35 years old and opted-out penioners under 35 years old. both in the same employment.

should be identified by June. The PIA said this week that a million cases of mis-selling have been identified and of those, 392,000 are priorities. In just 7,000 cases, redress has been offered, though not necessarily received. Anyone who thinks they

may have received wrong advice between 1988 and 1994 should first contact the company or adviser who sold the pension or telephone the PIA helpline on 0171 417 7001. 📕 Ĵacqueline Melville is awaiting compensation after being wrongly advised to transfer from the police pen-

Having been out of the old scheme for two years, her lump sum and pension have been greatly reduced. Cameron Law & Co, which wrongly advised her, has been struck off and dissolved so the Investors Compensation Scheme is processing her claim.

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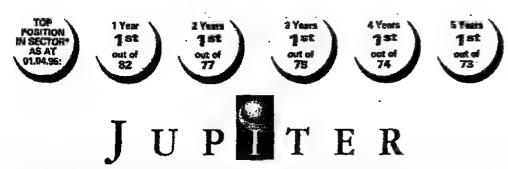
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Parents must make sure school fee sums add up



Not everyone has to pay school fees but the Revenue's decision to tax educational trusts will bring hardship to those who do

ecording to school fees specialists, it is never too early to start saving or planning for education. Personal equity plans (Peps). tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas), unit trust savings plans, investment trusts, in particular, zero dividend preference shares, can all be used, as well as educational trusts to build up a fund for orivate education.

Educational trusts have become far less attractive after the move by the Charity Commission to remove their charitable status from the beginning of next month. The Revenue has ruled that this means trusts can no longer distribute their income tax-

For some parents this will mean finding around 8 per cent more for their children's education. Alternative funding depends on whether lump sums are used, or whether savings are made out of regular income. Financial advisers point out that in reality many people will be unable to meet all their school fees planning needs from savings and investments alone.

Fiona Price of Fiona Price & Partners, said: "It is unlikely that savings will be able to pay for all school fees. When it comes to the time, usually extra funding from capital or income is needed.

Peps allow up to £9,000 a year to be invested - £6,000 in an ordinary Pep and £3,000 in a THOUSANDS of parents will have to find alternative ways of saving for their children's education after the Inland Revenue's announcement that it is to tax educational trusts. The move will add substantially to the costs of private education in an environment where school fees are already increasing at a rate far above infiation. Many financial advisers will assume annual rises of 10 per cent when planning for private education. They believe that those budgeting for seven years of educational fees, for example, should count on spending at least £100,000 per child. It is also becoming more common for parents to consider saving to help their children through further education. The cutbacks in student grants have made it necessary for parents to give their. offspring extra financial help for college or university.

single company plan. Any capital gains are tax free, as is any income. Peps are recommended for those who want to save regularly. Because they are vulnerable to stock market movements. Peps are only suitable for those who have at least five years to save.

Jonathan Gumpel, financial planning director at Brooks Macdonald Gaver, said: "Peps are really long term. I wo rej funds, one for the husband and one for the wife can be used. Taking a long term view means that you do not have to be so worried about volatility." ☐ Tessas. These plans can also provide a way of saving for school fees. Interest on the accounts is paid free of tax, and if savers opt for a fixed rate account, it is possible to predict exactly what the maturity value will be in five years' time. For example, £9,000 invested today in Bank of Ireland's 7.25 per cent fixed rate Tessa will pay out £12.890

Unit trust savings plans. It is possible to save as little as £50 a month in a unit trust savings plan. Financial advisers recommend choosing trusts which have high growth potential.

Zero dividend preference shares. Many split-capital investment trusts offer the choice of investment in zero dividend preference shares. These.

price at a set date. It is possible to invest in zeros which will mature on the dates when the school fees are needed. Mr Gumpel said: "The advantage of zero dividend shares is that they escape income tax." He recommends the shares of trusts from Ivory & Sime.; Zeros are suitable for those with lump sums.

☐ Educational trusts. These are trusts which, until the recent ruling, were deemed to. be charities. They did not have to pay income tax on distributions. However, from April 1997, income will become tax-

Educational trusts are official by the School Fees Insurance Agency, Equitable Life and Sun Life. Financial advisers say that educational trusts are a tigus back to when there we fewer tax-efficient invi

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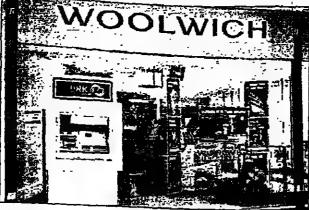
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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996





Is there a safe house for savers?

similar drop in savers' rates.

That would bring the rate on its instant Cashbuilder ac-

count on a £5,000 balance

down to 3.15 per cent. The

society points out that against

the trend it increased rates by

0.25 per cent in February.

True, but a month earlier its

rates had gone down by 0.5

his month, the amount

society and bank accounts has

fallen to 30 per cent for lower

and basic-rate taxpayers. For building societies, that seemed the perfect time to cut savers'

A spokeswoman for the Halifax said: "Our latest

change coincides with the new tax rates to make it easier for customers, since it avoids confusion. It also saves money since we don't have to publish

The latest round of cuts has severely dented, and in some cases wiped out, any benefit from the tax reduction. Take a Halifax Liquid Gold account with a balance of £5,000. At

last month's higher interest and tax rates, net annual

two lots of rates."

of tax automatically de-

ducted from building

Sarah Jones

considers the

harsh climate in which

savings rates have wilted

uilding societies are

b under the illusion that interest rates are like onions: they can peel away layer after layer. But it is investors who are left weeping as savings rates reach rock bottom, wiping out any benefit from the reduction in savings tax. With the latest parings, savers' rates have reached a 50-year low. A middle-band instant-access account cur-rently pays 2.36 per cent net. That, according to Abbey National data, represents the lowest rates since the 1940s. Rates stood at 2.5 per cent net in 1941-45 and at 2.25 net in 1946-52. Mortgage rates are currently

at a 30-year low. This week, the Woolwich announced an immediate cut on the interest rates paid on its Prime Gold, Tessa and current accounts. The changes vary from tier to tier but, across the board, the average cut is 0.2 per cent. The hardest hit are those with balances of more than E50,000 and Tessa account holders who face cuts of 0.30 and 0.35 per cent. Accounts that are no longer



available to new investors, such as the Woolwich Investalso this week reduced the ment Bond and the Premjum interest rate on its six variable investment. Prime and Capisavings accounts by 0.25 per tal accounts, have also been

A spokeswoman at the Woolwich said: This follows from the last month's reduction in base rate. We are simply behind the pack on this particular change."

The move comes hot on the heels of the Halifax's decision to cut the rates on all its main savings accounts. The reduction means that the lowest gross rate for its instant Liquid Gold account, for balances up to £500, slumps below) per cent to 0.75 per cent. For balances of more than £50,000, the Solid Gold gross monthly rate drops to 4.75 from 4.98 per cent. Even the Children's Account has not been spared, with a drop from 3.40 to 3.10 per cent.



The National & Provincial interest was £120; with the new lower interest and tax rates this month, it is Ello. The seven million Liquid Gold accountholders are even worse The Nationwide admits that off if you take the interest rates its mortgage rate cut of 0.25 at last November's Budget, per cent from next month will when the new savings tax rate have to be matched by a was announced. Then the net

> account was E144. Mark Bolland, of Chamberlain de Broe, the independent financial adviser, said: "Investors who rely on interest rates for their income are getting well and truly stuffed, though the societies would argue that they had to drop the interest rates anyway - so at least customers are not as badly off

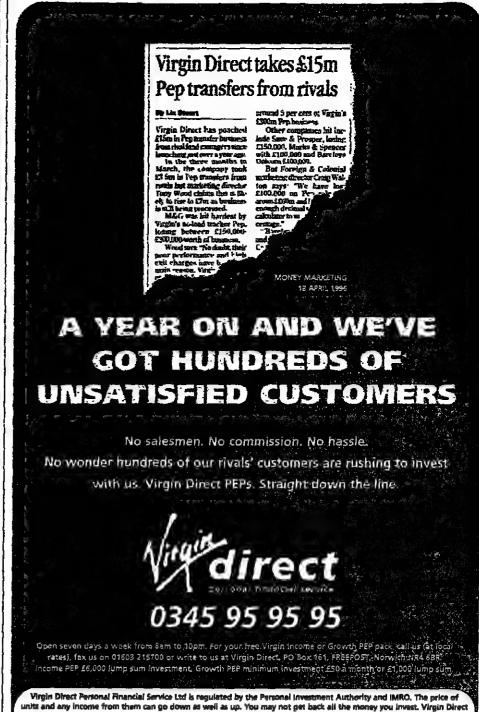
annual interest on the same

as they would have been under the higher tax rate. "Savers are now in the worst

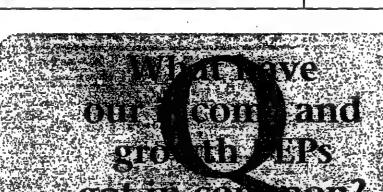
ALLIANCE

possible world. They are sitting on low interest rates but it's too late to diversify. If you buy into equities and gilts now you will be going in at the top of the market and will suffer accordingly when rates rise again."

All savers can do is look around for the best rates. But even the better-paying postal accounts are taking a knock. This week saw a 0.25 per cent reduction on the Chelsea Building Society's postal Classic Account, following a general reduction in the society's invest-







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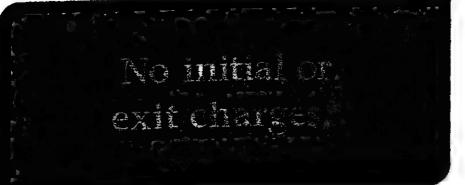
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"Fidelity contributed four out of the top six fund managers in this year's survey, with KC Lee being roted top fund manager by the region's brokers. 411

and the porfolio manager will be KC Lee, Fidelity's senior Investment Director for Asia. He is portfolio manager for Fidelity's South East Asia Trust - a £270m unit trust which, as the chart shows, has grown by 690% since launch in 1984. He intends to use a similar investment

approach to manage Fidelity Asian Values PLC. To take advantage of this investment trust launch, register now for your Mini Prospectus. The offer will be open for only 3 weeks from 15 May 1996. So act now. Call Fidelity on 0800 414110, seven days a week from 9am to 6pm or speak to your

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Savers who object to plans by their building society or life company to demutualise were warned this week that they need to act immediately if they are to have any chance of changing the board's policy.

Increasing numbers of mu-

Increasing numbers of mutual organisations have admitted that they are looking at the possibility of becoming public companies or accepting outside bids.

One organisation, which trades in second-hand life policies, has even drawn up a "hit-list" of candidates it believes are most likely to be taken over within the next year. They include Scottish Amicable, Scottish Life, MGM Assurance, NPI, Guardian, and London & Manchester.

For policyholders and society members who are not convinced by offers of cash, shares or bonuses in return for surrendering their membership rights, timing is crucial, according to Marian Pell, a specialist in insurance law.

Mrs Pell, a senior partner

with Herbert Smith, solicitors, says most policyholders do not move early enough in their attempt to overturn a board's decision. By the time they turn up to the extraordinary meeting to vote against the motion, it is usually too late.

"Historically, policyholders

have failed to overturn the board's decision because they are not well enough organised," she said. "Unlike shareholders in ple

"Unlike shareholders in ple meetings, there is no block vote and it is an uphill battle for policyholders to assemble



Mrs Pell has advice for dissenters, but concedes chances of victory are slim

If you wish to keep it mutual, act early

enough votes to force through an amendment. In addition, if the board is forced to drop its plans with no suitable alternative, it leaves the organisation in a vulnerable position and its business may have been damaged by the episode." She says that policyholders who feel unhappy about the proposals could in theory go to a third party and suggest it bids for

their organisation as soon as the demutualisation is made public. In practice, she acknowledges it is very difficult for individual policyholders to involve themselves in such negotiations.

Over the past two years plans by building societies and life companies to demutualise have left behind them a trail of disgruntled policyholders.

When Lloyds Bank took over the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society, borrowers and savers of less than two years' standing and savers whose name was second on the account lost out.

Thousands of savers with the Woolwich whose balances were less than £100 at the qualifying date are angry that they will miss out on pay-

ments, while Girobank savers will be excluded from the windfall to be paid out to Alliance & Leicester members when the society converts to a bank. Clerical Medical, the life insurer, had planned to exclude 30,000 savers whose life policies were due to mature before the end of the year, but had a change of heart after The Times drew attention to the unfairness of the decision: Ultimately, Mrs Pell says, unhappy savers could take their case to the High Court, where demutualisation schemes of life companies have to be sanctioned.

have to be sanctioned.

When Provident Mutual
was taken over by General
Accident, two dissenters complained to the judge. No such
action has ever succeeded.

action has ever succeeded.

Mrs Pell says that although building societies and life companies are entitled to say they are committed to mutuality, they are also obliged to consider every serious offer that comes along. It is the duty of directors to act in the best

interests of the organisation.

One Woolwich saver who is trying to take action early is David Adams. 51, an associate director of Amec, the construction company. He withdrew £750 from his account just before the qualifying date, leaving him with a balance of less than £100 and disqualifying him from any bonus to be paid out when the society converted to a bank. He believes his loyalty should be rewarded and is to hold a meeting in Oxford on May 11 for all disgruntled savers.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE SUNDAY TIMES



"I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BUSINESS SCENE IN HALF AN HOUR IN BED ON A SUNDAY MORNING THAN IN ALL THE REST OF THE WEEK."

Gerry Robinson
Group Chief Executive. Granada Group PLC.

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Undecided Top 20 decide to tighten up

As bid speculation focuses increasingly on the medium-sized building societies, more have raised their minimum investment levels to discourage new customers (Anne Ashworth writes). But it may not have the desired effect, as Birmingham Midshires found this week.

Midshires found this week.

On Monday, it raised its minimum to £1,500 in its 17 city-centre branches, and to £500 elsewhere. But customers continued to crowd in.

The Chelsea followed suit, closing three share accounts. Two of these, Capital Account and Instant Option, will be be relaunched as share accounts with a minimum of £2,500. Three other share accounts remain open but the entry cost is steep: Bonus Bond (minimum £5,000), 120-Day Account (£5,000) and Monthly Income Shares (£5,000).

The Lambeth, the 30th-ranked society, now has just one share account open to new investors (minimum £2,500).

Listed here are minimum

Listed here are minimum: investment on share accounts at the top 20 societies which remain (apparently) wedded to mutuality.

Nationwide	P600
Bractord & Bingley	2500
TO LOCATION CONTRACTOR	9:500°
Constitue Simman Michigan	£100
Sirri Taleri Mikini iran	£1,500°
Portman	
Governity	E100
Action & Malharit	P1 000-
Skipton eeds & Holbeck Theises	P2 600
North-retion	- FT 000
Dertryshire	P2.500*
Norwich & Peterborough	
West Bromwich	92,600

* Special mutuality scheme, see also Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley, Yorkshire, Covertry, 200 elsewhere * Cutside Midlands branch area, \$100 within area * Cutside Morte Wat (under review). £700 within area * £500 in society's operating area.

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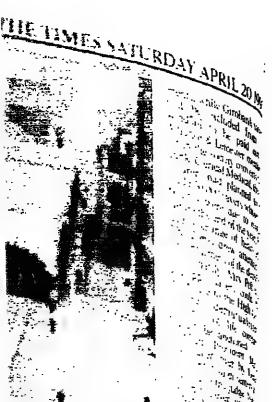
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FER YOUR ENDOWMEN KALL HEE MONEYLINEN 2 : 2 : 137 : 666.

Who benefits in the great building society lottery

Anne Ashworth

explains the

winners and losers in the

race to strip

away mutuality

n a mood rivalling the exchement of National Lottery rollover week, the shrinking of the building society sector-continued apace with the Bank of Ireland's £600 million bid for Bristol & West, the ninth largest society.

This move means that any-

one fortunate enough to have been a member of the six societies becoming banks or succumbing to bids would now be looking at winnings of roughly £6,000. The latest takeover leaves only the Nation-wide, the Bradford & Bingley. the Britannia and the Yorkshire of the ten biggest societies resolved (or so they say) to retain mutual status. The rest are either becoming banks or being taken over.

in all cases, borrowers benefit, but only savers in share accounts with voting rights join the fun. Deposit accounts are

The Halifax

The background: The first flotation deal to be announced, and something of a yardstick for the rest. A £10 billion share debut is planned for mid-1997, after a spring vote.

Average estimated payout:

Beneficiaries: Ten million members of the merged Halifax

The payout: Qualifying investing and borrowing members with belances of at least £100 at November 25, 1994, will receive a basic distribution of Halifax shares. They must maintain the £100 balance until conversion. Qualifying investing members of two years' standing on the conversion date (yet to be set) with balances of £1,000-£50,000 will receive the variable distribution based on their balance. The number of extra shares will be calculated by reference to the lowest total balance on the account at midnight on two reference dates. The first is November 25, 1994. The other date will be announced in advance to allow investors to neplenish their accounts. They im but they must maintain a balance of at least £100. Helpline 0800 888844.

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The Woolwich

Alliance The background: Despite the & Leicester

they must act at least 56 days

before the voting date, expected

The background: N&P mem-

bers will receive their loot from

Abbey National's £1.3 billion

takeover of their society in Sep-

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000,012 - mentrevir mu

in the autumn.

National

Helpline: 0345 221144.

& Provincial

sudden exit of Peter Robinson, chief executive, the society still The background: The owner of plans a £3 billion flotation next Girobank intends to become a autumn. However, another bidpublic company by next spring. Girobank customers will not der could intervene. Potential aggressors include BAT, Midshare in the largesse as they are land, Prudential, Royal Bank of not members of the society. Scotland or a European or Aus-This has caused irritation. Peter tralian bank. This could im-White, chief executive, says deprove the payouts. If the tails will be available when the original schemes goes ahead, anyone who did not have £100 deal is approved by the Building Societies Com invested last December 31 will Average payout £800. be excluded - a decision that Beneficiaries: Three million. has upset thousands of inves-The payout: Free shares will be tors who had transferred cash distributed to borrowing and saving members at December into cheque accounts, allowing their share accounts to fall be-31, 1995, who remain until conlow £100: These cheque acversion. In a significant concession, savers who did not have counts do not carry voting

have formed an action group (see page 34). Average estimated payout:

Beneficiaries: Four million. The payout: There will be a basic distribution to all members with the society at December 31, 1995, and who remain until conversion. There will also be an additional variable distribution for certain investors based on their balance at December 31, 1995, and at another date to be announced retrospectively. Helpline 0345 022033.

The payout: Borrowers and savers at April 28, 1995, and December 31, 1995, will get £500 of free Abbey shares (basic distribution). Those on the books at December 31, 1993, get £750 (cash or shares) and 7 per cent of the lower of their account balances at April 23, 1995, and at midnight, August 4, 1996, up to £50,000 (variable distribution). Helpline: 0345 697349.

Bristol & West

The background: Bristol & West will become the Bank of Ireland's specialist savings and mortgage division. Members who were on the books at April 15, 1996, will benefit.

Average payout: £1,000. Beneficiaries: 1.1 million The payout: Savers at Decem can replenish accounts. But ber 31, 1994 (with £100 or more by April 15, 1996) will get at least a fixed £500 in cash, plus a variable distribution related to balances up to £10,000. Those with less than £100 on April 15 can top up their accounts by December 31 but will only qualify for a fixed sum of at least £250. The 60,000 savers who hurriedly joined since January. and other newcomers, will get

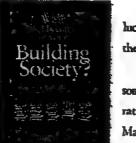
ence shares. Helpline: 0800 886633. Northern Rock

only the basic £250 B&W prefer-

The background: A £50 balance on April 2 will allow you to benefit from the £1 billion flotation. Conversion is expected in the autumn. But the account must be topped up to £100 by the end of this year. Beneficiaries: 1.3 million.

Average payout: £700-£1,000. The payout: A flat distribution of shares seems likely. Qualifying borrowers must have £1 in mortgage debt on April 2 and December 31, 1996, and at the date of conversion. Qualifying savers must have had £50 at April 2, 1996, and £100 on December 31, 1996, and have £1 balance at conversion.

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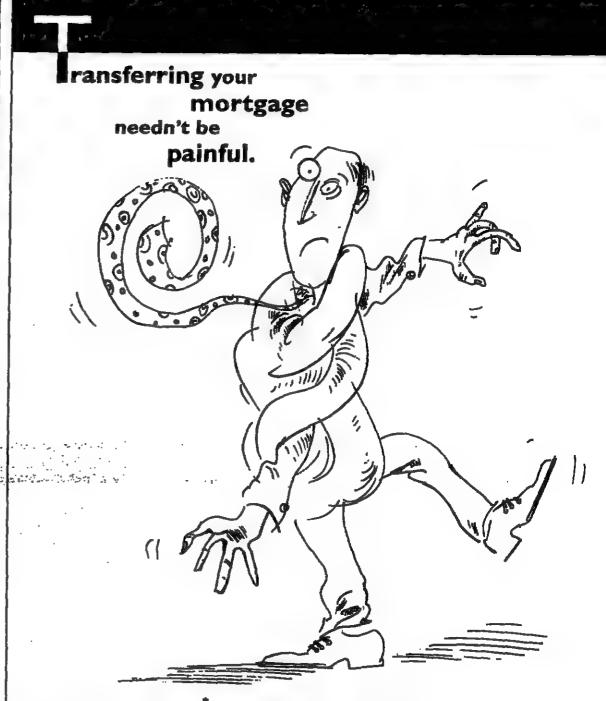
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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Hold it dear ... it isn't burying its head. The small print warns that



Not a charitable word for building societies

takeover of the Southdown

by the Leeds, the amalgam-

ation of the Leeds with the Halifax, and shortly from the

floration of the Northern Rock. Just exactly what is the

difference between our money and that of others? A

director of one of the societies mentioned told me not to

complain as "you do get your

interest tax-free". Floreat, florebit!

Yours faithfully, TED WALLISS. 3 Claremount Gardens,

Epsom Downs, Surrey.

Small print

From Mr S. Kitchiner Sir. Further to your comment on ostrich schemes. I would like to share with you the principle that guides me when I make my investment

decisions. I am only a working class pensioner, so I have to be very wary how I look after what little savings I have. As soon as I see an asterisk in an advertisement. I never read any further. I already know that the information small print below which they do not want us to see will show that the investment is not such a good deal after all. Yours faithfully. STUART KITCHINER. 45 Station Road. Bedford.

A different line

From Mr B. Crawford Sir. I have just asked Direct Line for a mortgage quote for a house in Northern Ireland. only to be told that it quotes only for England, Scotland and Wales. Ireland, North and South, is classified as the same by them, and is considered different from the rest of the UK. Perhaps we could get Direct Line to take over the Department of Agriculture and award Northern Ireland separate status from the rest of the UK, therefore allowing the export of our beef to mainland Europe and beyond, or perern Ireland to be British.

haps Direct Line does not consider the citizens of North-Yours faithfully, BARNEY CRAWFORD. 17 Saul Road, Downpatrick.



Brigade of blues: Ted Walliss with his son Gareth

Check the guarantee on your corporate bond Pep

antee on your corpoask, but that financial advisers feel is important when choos-

From Mr T. Walliss

involved.

Sir. I continue to read in your

pages, with interest and some sympathy.

pondence from individuals

missing out on bonuses resulting from building society

takeovers, flotations, etc. I

have not read lately, I think.

from anyone representing a charity. I cite one small situation in which I am

I run a building society account on behalf of a Boys'

Brigade unit. So far, it has

attracted no bonus from the

ing a place to put your money. Charles Levett-Scrivener, of advisers Towry Law, notes that older people, interested in making provision for themselves and their partner, tend to be attracted to guaranteed products. These people assume that any investments will pass on to their spouse. should they die during the term of the product. Yet in many cases the guarantee on a corporate bond Pep dies with the original holder.

Mr Levett-Scrivener says: There are legal problems with keeping guarantees after death, yet there is no warning in the literature that when you die the guarantee lapses."

After pressure for clarifica-

Karen Zagor on suppositions by

older investors seeking solid returns

Alliance has now said that it will be possible for a beneficiary to receive a guarantee on its high income bond trust. The bond promises initial tax-free income of about 7 per cent a year, plus the guarantee of the full return of capital and guarantee premium at the end of six years. Minimum investment is £3,000 with a guarantee premium of £150.

Sun Alliance has said it will issue a new capital protection insurance certificate to beneficiaries, on request, to apply to the original unit. This will guarantee the additional payment on the sixth anniversary of the original investment. The conditions will be the same as the original investment.

any payment under the insurance to the unit-holder is likely to be a disposal for capital gains tax purposes. In addition, the capital protection insurance will cease immediately if the new unitholder dies or transfers all, or some. of the units to another person before the sixth aniversary of the original investment. In contrast. Mr Levett-Scrivener notes that Marks & Spencer dees not make provision to transfer the guarantee on its Guaranteed Capital Invest-

Mr Levett-Scrivener says investors should make sure the guarantee is worth paying for before buying a guaranteed product. With a capital

protection may not be worthwhile because over five years the stock market is likely to move higher. Similarly, if a guarantee on a capital growth product lapses on death, it is probably not worth worrying about. But guarantees on income products are important.

HSBC Asset Management is being launched. The fund will be set up as a traded company, thus meeting the requirements of a single company Pep. But the company's shares will reflect the movements of the FT-SE. investors will get the security of a diversified investment, while using their made mum single and general Pep allowance of £9,000. The HSBC Pep Plus is a growth fund which promises full return of capital if the market falls. If it rises, investors will benefit from the growth in the FT-SE 100, plus a 33 per cent

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Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future The rather of investments and the moome from them more full us well us rise and investors may not get back the impatient originally invested. The level; and bases of, and reliefs from. taxation may change. The reliefs referred to me those current available and their value depends on the circumstances of the

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AE TIMEN SATURDAY APRIL.

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te bond Pep

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Succulent fast food recipe for a seduction age 3

PLUS: Paul Heiney on clean cooking, page 3

OFFERS



Win an adventure holiday for two every year for life Page 20

PLUS: Kodak guide to travel pictures, page 14

PROPERTY



What to gain from owning an offshore house

PLUS: Mavis Nicholson on her barn, page 6

Page 8

PETS

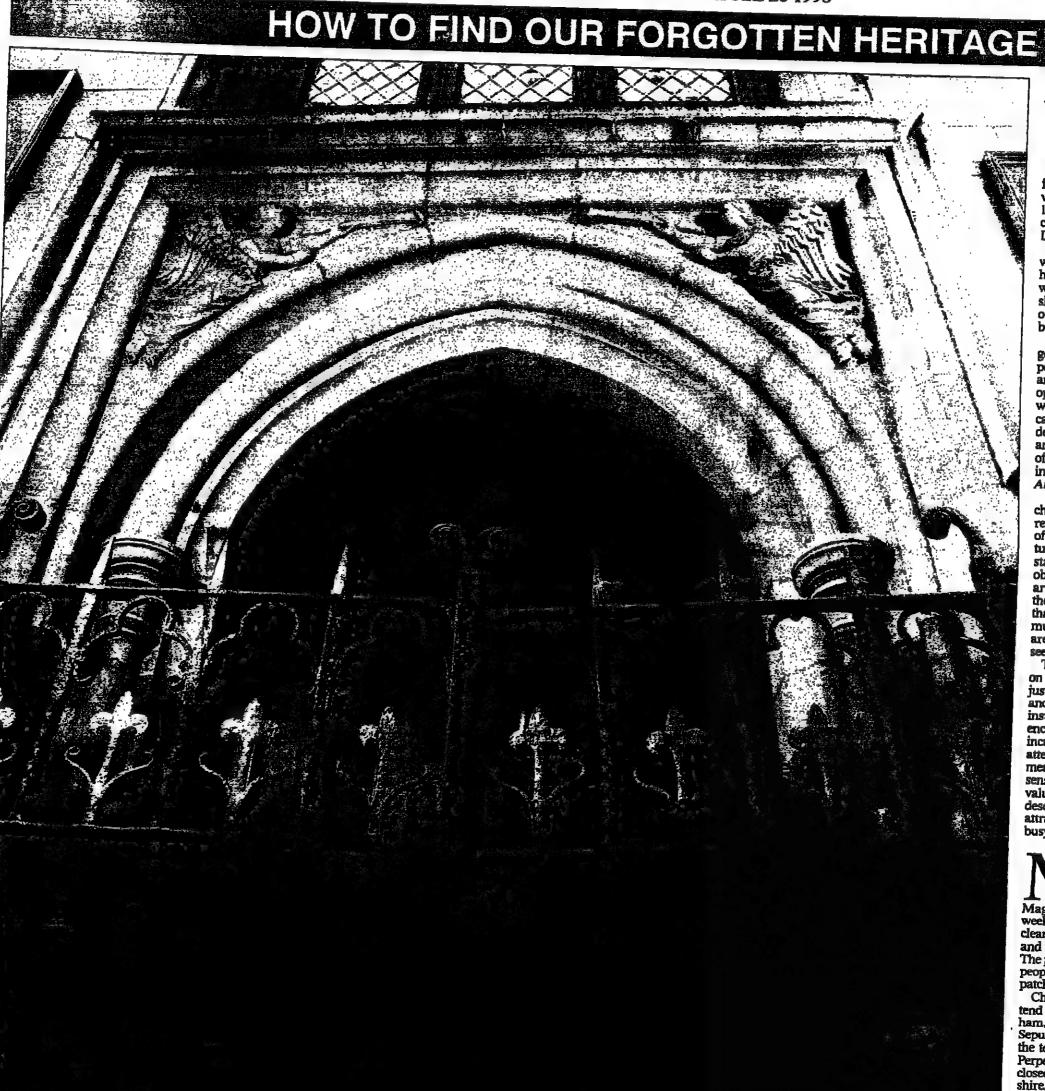


Does your dog need a personal trainer?

PLUS: trendy fish make Pet News, page 9

Page 9

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996



by John Martin Robinson

ast summer, with a group of friends, I made a long journey to see St Mary's Church at Whalley in lancashire, described by Pevsner as being "exceptionally rich in furnishings and especially woodwork" and where the star attraction is the set of early 15th-century choir stalls with carved misericords, rescued from Whalley Abbey at the Dissolution of the monasterios Dissolution of the monasteries.

At 4.15 on a Saturday afternoon the church was locked. We went to a small, modern house some distance away to ask for the key where we were met by a woman who told us she was busy baking a cake and could not open the church for us, nor could she let us borrow the key.

borrow the key.

The picture of church-visiting is not generally so frustrating. While it is no longer possible, as it was 30 years ago, to drive around the country and find all the churches open in daylight hours, with a little homework (see page 2) the determined sightseer can gain access to many churches which, despite the destruction of the Reformation and Civil War, contain medieval works of art of superb quality, some of which are shown in the first part of BBC2's A History of British Art tomorrow at 7.30pm.

More than any other old buildings, these churches are the tangible expression and

churches are the tangible expression and receptacle of English history: treasure houses of woodcarving, painting, sculpture, furni-ture, books, needlework, silver plate and stained glass. Moreover many of these objects have the unique character of works of art used and cherished and forming part of their original architectural setting, rather than being isolated, out of context, in a museum. The problem is that when churches are locked against thieves and vandals many seem generally inaccessible to the public.

The closure of churches is usually blamed on the demands of insurance, but this is often just a lazy excuse. The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, set up in the 19th century to insure all the Church of England, in fact encourages parochial councils and church incumbents to keep churches open and attended during daylight hours as the best means of protecting buildings, subject to sensible precautions and the safe-keeping of valuable moveable objects. Locked and deserted churches are much more likely to attract vandalism, arson and theft than open, busy-looking buildings.

any of the greatest medieval town churches, such as St Peter Mancroft in Norwich, St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol or St Mary Magdalene in Newark, are usually open on weekdays when there are vergers present, cleaners at work, regular midday services and the general bustle of ecclesiastical life. The picture at weekends, which is when most people do their "church-crawling", is more patchy and varies from county to county.

Churches in the Midlands in particular tend to be inaccessible: Hawton in Nottingham, with its magnificent Decorated Easter Sepulchre, or Strelley near Nottingham, with the tombs of the Strelley family and a good Perpendicular rood screen, always seem to be closed when I try to visit them. Northampton-shire, too, which is criss-crossed by motorways and new roads facilitating the movement of the criminal classes, also tends to close its churches most of the time.

In East Anglia, however, where the churches, thanks to medieval wool prosperity,

Continued on page 2

GARDENING A PROPERTY 48 PETS

SHOPPING.

. 11 BOOKS.......12,13 GOING OUT...14,15 TRAVEL.........17-23

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INSIDE STORY

The battle is on to keep the country's finest old churches in repair, open and used

Continued from page 1 contain the finest medieval woodwork in the country angel roofs, fretted and painted screens, carved benches, towering font covers - many of the rural churches are open at weekends. This is partly due to the activity of the Norfolk Historic Churches Trust under the direction of the redoubtable Bills, Harrod. who for decades has campaigned to keep old churches

there in repair, open and used. Some of the linest Perpendicular rood screens in the country are in Norfolk, such as that at Attleborough, which retains its original luft and medieval colouring: Barton Turf, where the painted saints and heavenly hierarchies were cleaned in 1978; or Ranworth, the finest of all.

Then there are the tall wooden font covers at Sall and Trunch, the brass-eagle lec-tern of 1518 at Wiggenhall St Mary, and the 15th-century stained glass at South Creake. near Burnham Market, and much else. Nearly every church in East Anglia has some medieval treasures.

n the other side of the country in Herefordshire. Worcestershire. Shropshire and Warwickshire a new initiative, "Through the Church Door", started two years ago, organises and advertises regular opening times. In England at present there is no countrywide infor-mation available as to when historic churches are open. though the Scottish Churches Scheme has published such a booklet for all denominations.

Through the Church Door. however, has produced the Country Church Visitors' Handbook for its four counties which includes regular opening times and, most usefully, contact telephone numbers for churches so that it is possible to plan a visit. This is particularly important because churches such as Kilpeck and Eardisley, both near Hereford, have some of the best Norman sculpture in the country, and Malvern Priory the most complete sequence of 15th-century stainedglass windows in England.

planned for the diocese of Truro in Cornwall, subject to the money being found, and it is to be hoped that eventually such handbooks will be available for the whole country. The production of such

handbooks might be something English Heritage should

consider financing.

An admirable body which publishes county leaflets, but only for the churches in its possession, is the Churches Conservation Trust, formerly Redundant Churches Fund. Set up under the Pastoral Measure of 1968, the trust

WHERE TO FIND THE TREASURES

THE ARTWORKS shown right and their locations, listed below, teature in the first part of A History of British Art, to be shown on BBC2 tomorrow at 7.30pm, and in Andrew Graham-Dixon's book of the same name (BBC Books, \$25). There is also a BBC booklet to accompany the series. On the Trail of British Art, which is available from BBC. Education History of British Art, PO Box 7, London W5 2GO, with a cheque for £3.50 payable to BBC Education.

I FOULIS EASTER CHURCH near Dundee (01382 580210). Can be viewed by appointment.

2 THE LADY CHAPEL

Ely Cathedral, Ely, Cambridgeshire (01353 667735). Open daily, summer 7am-7pm; winter 7.30am-6pm. Entry lee of £3 includes access to the whole cathedral. Tours available.

3 CHURCH OF ST HELEN Ranworth, Norfolk (01603 270 263). Open daily until dusk, donabons welcome.

A CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGOALENE Withersdate, Suffolk (01379 500343). Open daily until dusk, donations welcome.

S ST PETER'S CHURCH Wenhaston, Suffolk (01502 478351). Open daily 9am-dusk, donations welcome.

S HOLY TRINITY CHURCH Blythburgh, Suffolk (01502 478459).

Open daily 8am-dusk, donations welcome T CHURCH OF ST MARY

Uttord, Suttolk (01394 460935). Open during daylight hours, donations welcome.

The Mercer's Company, London EC2 (0171-726 4991).
The figure of Christ in the hall can be viewed by appointment only Contact Ursula Carlyle B ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH

Wells, Somerset (01749 676906) Open dally until 5pm, donations we

10 CHURCH OF ST ANDREW Cullompton, Devon (01884 33249) Open during daylight hours

11 EXETER CATHEDRAL Open daily until dusk, but the gallery, visible from the cathedral, can be visited by appointment only. For appointments and information on tours available telephone 01392 55573.

Abergavenny, Gwent (01873 853168). Will complete a sx-year restoration in October 1996. Open daily

13 CHURCH OF MERTHYR ISSUI Partrishow (Patricio), Powys, Wales (01873 810348).

The Country Church Visitors' Handbook is obtainable from Through the Church Door. The Hay Loft, The Old Vicarage, Church Lane, Stoutton, Worcestershire WR7 4RE (01905 841554)

County leaflets are available from The Churches Conservation Trust, 89 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DH (0171-936 2285).

The Open Churches Trust is c/o The Really Useful Group. 22 Tower Street, London WC2 H9NS (0171-240 0880).

The front cover photograph shows the Hart Street entrance of St Olave's in the City of London. Samual Pepys, who is buried in the church, saved it from the Fire of London by perauading the Navy to blow up all nearby houses, inside, there is a 15th-century doorcase with the nal door. On weekdays the church is usually open 9am-6pm and on Sundays 1 fam-12.30pm. The rector, John Cowling, will sometimes admit visitors outside those times if he is available. St Olave's, 8 Hart

AMANDA LOOSE

preserves churches of historic interest which are no longer in regular parish use and now has 301 churches, the great majority of which are pre-Reformation. The trust is a charity receiving 70 per cent of its funding from the Department of National Heritage and 30 per cent from the Church Commissioners. The

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trust's more important churches are regularly open. and for the others there is an efficient system of voluntary keyholders whose addresses

are posted in the church porch. Where churches are in the grounds of a great house open to the public, as at Kedleston, Derbyshire, with its medieval tombs of the Curzon family.

they are open at the same time as the house. This often also applies to other churches in the grounds of country houses. At Arundel, West Sussex, for instance, the Fitzalan Chapel. with its superb medieval tombs, unique iron rood

screen and four medieval altar

stones, is open at the same

time as the castle on Sunday

days between April and

In 1994 Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber founded the Open Churches Trust with the aim of opening, at regular hours, important historic churches previously shut. The pilot scheme comprises 19 churches in London. Liverpool and Suffolk including, in Suffolk, the notable church of St Nicholas, Denston, with its splendid 15th-century fittings - carved screens, stalls and rood beam. A further 20 churches are to

join the scheme next month in the dioceses of Southwark, Manchester and Durham. Eventually it is hoped to extend the programme to the

whole country if matching funds can be found.

As a result of private initiatives of this type, more of England's incomparable treasures of medieval art are becoming available. But much more could be done to put them on the map.

Cover photograph by STEVEN HARVEY Graphic on this page by DUNCAN STEWART Graphic pictures: Anthony F. Kirsting.

Turpin, Nicholas Tiliv and

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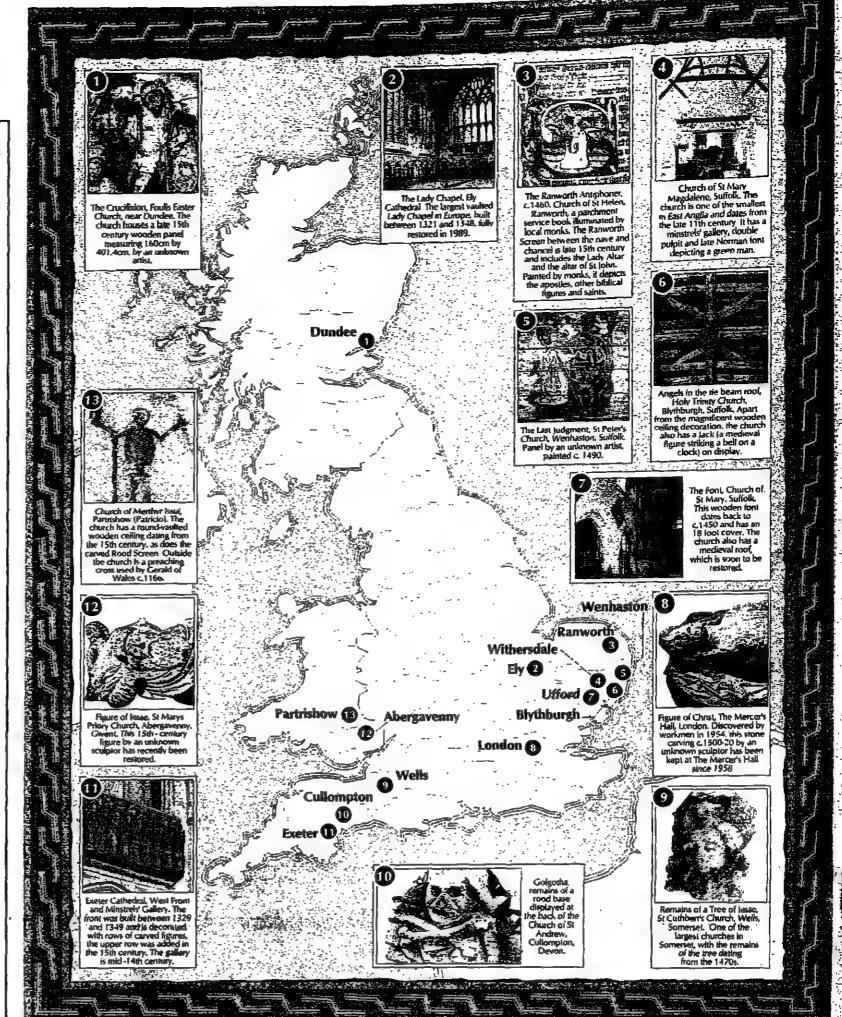
At your service, page 15

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Plovers lighten gloom

THERE are about 30 species of bird that can be considered regular summer visitors to Britain, and at this time our whole landscape would be quite different without them swallows and swifts in the sky, cuckoos calling, the rich songs of blackcaps and garden warblers in the foliage, wheatears and whinchats darting about on the moors.

Some species have become scarcer in recent years. We have to lament the musical lamentations of the nightingale, now heard only in a few places in the South East, and many people are waiting to see if the house martins will come back to their eaves again this

The soft purring of the turtle dove is also now quite a rare sound in the English hedgerows, as the alarming report by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on bird decline emphasised this week. However, there has been

one notable success story in recent years: that of the little ringed plover. There was great excitement on the shores of a reservoir in

Tring. Hertfordshire, in 1938, when a pair of these hitherto rare birds was found nesting there. Three pairs were found in 1944, and since the Second World War their numbers have steadily risen. Now, about 1,000 pairs return regularly each spring, and spread throughout the country. This year they seem to have done it

Their slightly larger relative, the ringed plover, is quite common on the coast. The little ringed plovers are nearly all found inland. On the Continent, they nest on the pebbly shores of rivers, but here it is flooded gravel pits that have given them their was at a gravel sit les

Feather report

week. I was watching some lapwings quarrelling on a sandspit when suddenly I saw another movement at the edge of it. It was a little ringed plover running past on twinkling feet. A moment later another swept through the air. made several zigzag turns above the water, and alighted beside the first one.

Little ringed plovers are delightful birds, with their rapid movements both on



Little ringed plovers are now regular visitors

land and above it, and their masked faces. They are not easy to distinguish from ringed plovers except in flight. when the ringed plover re-veals a distinct white wingbar, while the little ringed plover is plain brown above.

In flight, too, they each have distinctive call. The little ringed plovers is a sharp teeu", while its cousin's is a musical "topee". The sounds may not be very

different, transliterated like that, but they cannot be confused once you have heard them. Humans, far from harming the species. Not only have they provided this new gravel-pit habitat for them, but the birds positively like nesting where there are workmen about. because predators such as hobbies and sparrowhawks

will not come near. In fact, their whole domestic economy is affected in an interesting way by questions of security. They nest on shingle or gravel, hollowing out a shallow space with their breasts, and lining it with small pebbles. In this setting their four mottled eggs, laid in the shape of a cross, blend well with their surroundings. Some waders line their ground nests with dry grass. but thet would make the little ringed plovers' nests on the bare stones too conspicuous to predatory gulls and crows.

However, heat leaks away very easily from the eggs on this stony hed, and they cannot be left for long. So both sexes sit on the eggs, constantly taking short turns, and feeding intensively in between in order to keep up their own

Moreover, the eggs are relatively large for such a small bird, and take a long time almost four weeks — to hatch. because the young must be welf-enough developed to run for ower as soon as they break through the shells.

After that, the young quite quickly start fending for themselves. But it is a hard life for these dainty little visitors ev-

DERWENT MAY • What's about Birders - Watch or house martins over lakes and houses. Twitchers — Calandra

lark on St Agnes, Isles of Scilly. American con on Strulmarsh. Kent, two harlequin ducks near Girvan, Ayrshire, Details from Burdline (NY) 701222. Calls ont Alp a minute cheup rate. Shr at all

recently had to give up her work because of failing health. With no family to look after her, and no money, Walku can't afford the medicines she needs, or even a proper meal. Yet, for just over \$2 a week, you can change all this. By sponsoring someone like Naiku, you can buy her the basics of life, such as food, medicine and clothing. What's more, your money will support other vital projects to improve life for entire communities To find out more, alip the coupon now and post to: Mrs Helen Higgs, Adopt a Granny, Help the Aged, FREEPOST, London EC1B 1JY. Yes, I'm interested in sponsoring an elderly person

IN BOOTHS lit only by a red it's all about "mouthfeel". This source of inspiration for the 5c each vegration for the 5c each vegrat each year the centre has volunteers, but only Cadbury:
can apply, Alex Wijerataa writ

Heat one appartism of place oil in a saucapin. Cross three cloves of garaction of the on. Stir. for a minute Add a 40% of 40% glass (iOs provide as of champagne and half a temporal of dried chilli flakes. Bring to the buil and simmer for five Make chocolate sauce If you have a microw at 2, put 50g plain chocolate, my 2 tablespoons of milk and one tablespoon of Cointread or whatever liqueur you have to hand) into a microwaye-regietant bowl. Melt and stir in make a smooth sauce Shoppin

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forget the grants

Make pasta sauce

Tigorian in the late.

STATE OF PARTIE

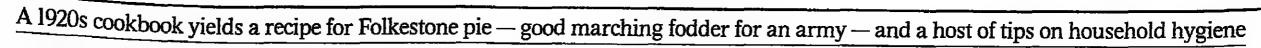
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Small tub ice-cream 30g parmesan cheese 2 tos milk

Shellfish 200g (70z) frozen. cooked and prejed tiger

Savoury goods
280g (100z) botile
artichoke hearts in oil 400g (140z) can

Assessments from the volume are honed and analysed by G Dadd, the lastefully titled Set the chief chocolate taster." He is pay attention to the taste rather bay attention to the tasse rather



f I am right in thinking that Harpic is the disinfectant that gets right round the bend and puts the fear of God into microbes in life's less savoury places, then I have uncarthed one of the most bizarre sponsorship deals in history.

A slender volume has come into my possession entitled the Harpic Cook Book, published in 1926. Can you believe it? Is it possible that, while history records that the smart thing to do in the 1920s was the Charleston, the nation was, in fact, taking Harpic to its bosom and muttering the slogan a sprinkle at night leaves the lavatory germ-free and white" while consulting the recipe for kidney hotpot, which appears on the same page? We are also told that this miracle product "clears the drain from house to main", right alongside the directions for chocolate mould with

peppermint cream sauce.
For the sake of my stomach, I generally prefer to keep some distance between "dealing with bluebottles" and cauliflower fritters, in the same way that i would not relish the Elastoplast Book of Meat Carving, or Milk of Magnesia's The old ones are always the best

HOME MADE

Guide to Curries of the World. But people were made of sterner stuff in 1927. But in my new life, which finds me increasingly wed to the kitchen stove, the Harpic book has proved invaluable. I now know that a proper housewife's duties include, at 9.45am, "rub up letterbox, sweep porch and steps" and, having spent between 10.30am and Ilam

examining the lavatory pans, setting aside no less than an hour and a half

after lunch for washing-up. However, all that apart, for someone whose declared ambition is to draw the world's attention once again to the value of all things homemade, this book is a treasure trove. No sooner had my eyes fallen upon the recipe for Folkestone pie that I had to make one there and then. And what do you think might be the principal ingredient of a dish named after this South Coast harbour, one of our gateways to the Continent? Some-

thing fishy? A French influence? No, this pie is mostly rice. I am as bewildered as you. I have been to Folkestone many times but did not spot any paddy fields.

To be a proper home-made dish, the recipe has to have nothing in it that could not have been bought over the counter of any grocer's shop in the 1950s. Not for nostalgic reasons. but because I have set myself the task of understanding ingredients, and you are never going to appreciate the joys of, say, Yorkshire

pudding if you buy a bag of ready-mixed powders. I prefer to start from scratch. So, for the Folkestone pie I first needed

some pastry. Straight away I find I am being untrue to my principles, because I

with pastry. It is the bit where "you rub the fat into the flour till it resembles breadcrumbs". I have never created anything other than greasy, floured lumps by this method — certainly not dough.

The Harpic Cook Book offers good advice on pastry-making but it is adjacent to a sermon called the "ABC of Home Sanitation", and I found my eyes wandering to a worrying phrase: Pause to consider how seldom is every house in any street

entirely free of contagious diseases." So, because I was in a hurry to bring you this dish, I bought frozen pastry, rolled it out and lined a shallow pie dish. I then baked it in a hot oven till crispy.

last week; that is still undergoing a flue transplant. I popped it into the Aga. An Aga, according to its high priestess Mary Berry, seems to be one of those things into which you never put things, you always "pop" them, like popping to the lavatory. Sorry, Harpic on the brain.

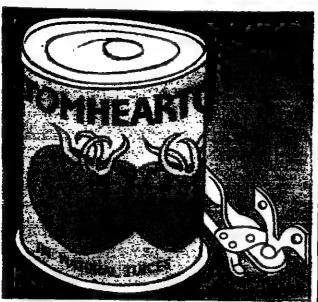
For the filling of the Folkestone pie, you need 30z of pudding rice simmered in a pint of milk for about half an hour until you have a creamy rice pudding. You might think it is worth stopping here and just tucking in, but you would be missing a treat. Add to your creamy rice a hefty knob of buner, a good handful of currants, 4oz of sugar and a couple of well-beaten eggs. Pour this mixture into the pie dish, now lined with crisp pastry, and bake for half an hour or so until it goes slightly brown

The book says that this can be served hot or cold and that an ideal accompani-ment is a spoonful of marshmallow cream. Never heard of it, have you? By coincidence, a Kenwood Chef cookbook (undated but judging by the ladies' hair-dos about 1955) tells me that whisking together for a hearty four minutes one egg white and half a pound of sieved jam produces the stuff, and that it keeps well in the refrigerator.

I found it disappointing: too sweet, sticky and gluey for me.

But Folkestone ple is a different matter. Admittedly, it is the sort of food on which an army could march a long way, assuming it ever managed to start moving at all after such an assault on its stomach, but it hits the spot on a cold day, it is real food, and truly homemade. If I could suggest an improvement, I would spread a generous layer of bitter marmalade on the pastry before adding the rice mixture, and sprinkle a little nutmeg on the top of the rice before baking. It needs a little more sweetness down below, and a touch more spice on top. Just like Folkestone, really.

MARTIN BEDDAL



Spontaneous temptation for lovers

FAST FOOD

dinner for two

Artichoke heart and parmesan salad Tiger prawn linguine ice-cream and hot chocolate sauce

The second secon

the same there -

This is a quick, luxurious dinner for two which can be cobbled together with ingredients from the fridge, the freezer and the store cupboard. Whether it is an impromptu romancing of your partner or a special dinner for a new love, seize the day and the tin opener - and don't forget the candles.

Start drinking champagne

Make pasta sauce
Heat one tablespoon of olive oil in a saucepan. Crush three cloves of garlic into the oil. Stir for a minute. Add a 400g (1402) tin of chopped tomatoes, a glass (100ml/3floz) of champagne and half a teaspoon of dried chilli flakes. Bring to the

Make chocolate sauce If you have a microwave, put 50g plain chocolate, two tablespoons of milk and one tablespoon of Cointreau (or whatever liqueur you have to hand) into a microwave-resistant bowl. Melt and stir to make a smooth sauce;

boil and simmer for five

If you are using an ordinary cooker, put the ingredients into a bowl that fits above a pan of simmering water. Heat, stirring occasionally until the ingredients melt togeth-

Make and serve salad On two plates, arrange the sliced artichoke hearts in a little of the oil from the bottle. Sprinkle a few drops of sherry or wine vinegar onto each plate and mix into the oil. Using a knife or a potato peeler, pare a few shavings of parmesan onto the artichoke hearts. Season with black

Finish and serve pasta Put 150g (5ox) linguine into boiling water and cook for six minutes, or until it is al dente.

pepper. Serve.

Meanwhile, add 200g (70z) tiger prawns to the sauce and cook for five more minutes, until the prawns are completely heated through, stirring from time to time. Turn off the heat. Season with salt and black pepper. Drain and divide the pasta

between two plates. Put sauce Serve pudding Take the ice-cream out of the

freezer. Bring the water under the chocolate sauce to the boil and heat until it is hot. Serve the ice-cream in bowls and pour the sauce on top.

HATTIE ELLIS

Shopping list

Dairy Small tub ice-cream

Shellfish 200g (7oz) frozen. cooked and peeled tiger prawns

280g (10oz) bottle

chopped tomatoes
2 tsp dried chilli few drops sherry or

Sweet goods 50g (2oz) plain chocolate

wine vinegar

Drink I bottle of champagne or sparkling wine 1 tbs Cointreau (or other liqueur)



All the buzz from France

WELL placed to win an award for the most far-fetched food product of 1996 is Miel des Toits de Paris, an exclusive honey from leading Paris grocer Fauchon, on sale at Selfridges at £9.50 for a 125g (4½ 02) jar.

Why so expensive? Because of its rarity. The honey comes from a hive kept on the roof of the Paris opera house. It was installed in 1984 by the opera's interior designer, Jean Paucton, who was trying to find a temporary home for the bees. About 500 pots of honey

In case you're worrying that the honey might be tainted with Gauloises smoke, traffic fumes or the odd pigeon dropping, rest assured. The 1995 vintage (yes, a vintage is declared each year) is delectably sweet, sticky and smells of lime blossom. The honey keeps indefinitely.

Kid stuff?

STRANGE when we have embraced the Mediterranean diet so wholeheartedly that we have never really taken to kid, a delicacy in countries such as Greece and Italy, where it constitutes the centreplece of

Bob Kennard, a Welsh farmer supplying organic meat, reckons it is the name that puts people off. He prefers to call it goat, but says that up to now there hasn't been much demand for it. "People are happy to eat lamb, but offer them goat and they go all gooey," he says.

Since the BSE scare, Mr Kennard has seen an upsurge of interest in goat, which is a slightly gamier alternative to lamb. Mr Kennard's new season's leg of lamb costs £9.61 a kilo; a leg of goat is £5.90. Contact him at Graig Farm, Dolau, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LDI 5TL (01597 851655).

Join the Yakult

EVERYONE, according to the advertisements in the national media over the past week, is talking Yakult. For those of you who haven't dropped it into your conversation, Yakult is a Japanese; fermented drink containing live bacteria which apparently promotes healthy "intestinal flora". It comes in a strip of seven dinky 65ml plastic bottles, each of which, the company claims, contains 6.5 million lactobacillus casei Shirota, the lactic acid bacteria named after the doctor who identified this strain 60

After three days of swigging it. I have to report my intesti-nal flora seem much the same as usual. It tastes a bit like a mandarin-flavoured yoghurt drink but is nothing to write home about. It is, however, a brilliant money-making idea. Keeping my family of six in Yakult for a year would cost £780, which may explain why the company has a turnover of £1.54 billion worldwide.

Takeaway chic

UBIQUITOUS television chef and restaurateur Antony Worrall Thompson seems to be taking the name of his latest restaurant, Drones, litcoq au vin, chocolate and raspberry terrine, assorted oils, spices and pickles, and even a carton of milk. The menu changes every day, but if you want something specific

tell them in advance and they'll make it for you. The Grocer and Drones are at 1-3 Pont Street, London SWI. Restaurant reservations, 0171-259 6166. Shop, 0171-259

Coffee froth

THE COFFEE craze that started in Seattle, Washington, seems to be getting a grip in Britain. Before you swan into one of the smart new bars you need to get the hang of American coffeespeak. Rule one: don't ask for a black coffee - ask for an espresso (or an Americano if you don't

like it strong). Rule two (and more important): never ask for a white - ask for a latte or a cappuccing. The difference between the two is a matter of foam. Cappuccino is frothier. It contains a slug of espresso topped up half-and-half with steamed and foamed milk. Latte (which rhymes with satay) has mostly steamed milk, with a spoonful of foam top. Latte Macchiato (makkinto), on the other hand, reverses the process by adding a shot of coffee to the milk, as opposed to an Espresso Macchiato, which adds a

Confused? You ain't heard nothing yet. Real coffee addicts (and health nuts) customise their coffees. You saunter in in a Kate Moss-ish way and ask for a Tall Skinny - a latte made with a double portion of non-fat milk. And don't look surprised when it comes in a glass. Try American-style coffee at

dash of milk to the coffee.

branches of Aroma in London. Coffee Republic in South Molton Street, WI, and the Seattle Coffee Company in Covent Garden and Cambridge.

Erroneous zone THE BLURB on book

dustjackets is often asinine, but new depths are plumbed by Margi Clarke's Better Than Sex Cookbook (Hodder, £14.99). "Food That Makes Love To Your Tastebuds" trills the cover. Inside are some pretty sad recipes. If Ms Clarke finds Quorn and Beansprout Parcels better than sex I suggest she was the wrong woman to front ITV's Good Sex Guide.

FIONA BECKETT





Miel des Toits de Paris, from a hive installed on the roof of the Paris opera house in 1984, is on sale in Selfridges for £9.50 per 125g (41/202) jar

20g parmesan cheese

2 tbs milk

artichoke hearts in oil 400g (14oz) can

Chocolate Box

palette," he says. "Follow the flavour as it decreases." To achieve what Mr more chocolate, has just arrived in Dadd considers the right mouthfeel, the melting point has to be perfect:

erally. He has opened a shop

next door providing ready-cooked food for those who

don't want to lift a finger in the

The deal's a good one.

Lunch at Drones and you'll

pay about £30 a head for a

three-course meal, presum-

ably for the benefit of sitting -

as I did — next to Joan Collins.

You can take away similar

dishes from The Grocer (as the

takeaway side is called) for £10

The dinner-party pack the day I was there contained antipasti, lamb tagine and

couscous, and blood orange

and chocolate trifle - all for

£10.50. You could, alternative-

ly, have picked up tomato,

fennel and basil soup, seared

smoked salmon and mango

salad, Jamaican rabbit curry.

then sip mineral water. Mr Dadd spits it out. Either way, a dozen samples at one sitting are about as much as the tastebuds can take. With especially strong chocolate, it's eight. His latest creation, Whisper Gold. an aerated chocolate smothered with

more chocolate, has just arrived in the shops. There are other developments, but these are top secret in case rivals get hold of the plans.

 Cadbury World exhibition, Linden Road, Bournville, Birmingham B30 2LD OAPs £4.35, Mon-Fri.

Chocolate in Yorkshire, page 21



THE PROPERTY OF STREET WITH THE WAR AND ALL WAS AND ALL

each year. The centre has 200 volunteers, but only Cadbury's staff can apply. Alex Wijeratna writes. Assessments from the volunteers are honed and analysed by George Dadd, the tastefully titled Sensory Evaluation Manager — "I call myself the chief chocolate taster." He insists on the red-lit booths so that assessors pay attention to the taste rather than

IN BOOTHS lit only by a red bulb, it's all about "mouthfeel". This is the

sampling centre in Bournville, the

source of inspiration for the 526,000

tonnes of Cadbury's chocolate we eat

the look of the samples. Mr Dadd, a chocoholic — "I buy chocolate when I'm off duty" — is in search of the Holy Grail of chocolate. Balance is all: mouthfeel, particle size, creaminess, caramelisation, bitterness - all have to be present. "Snap the chocolate to smell its

aroma, then bite it," he says. "The bite should be firm but not hard." The chocolate is rubbed between the tongue and the back of the teeth. As it melts, it is pushed to smother the back of the tongue. "I don't want

it to feel sandy or slimy on the

cocoa beans from Ghana are favoured over Malaysian which are slower to melt in the mouth. Most testers swallow the chocolate

(0121-451 4180/4159). Open daily 10am-5.30pm, though this can vary, so ring. E5 for adults: £3.45 for children (aged 5-15), under-5s free. Family tickets £14.50 (2 plus 2) or £17.50 (2 plus 3).

GARDENING Forget patching up groups of trees past their best, Stephen Anderton says. Axe them and start again:

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

I grew some standard fuchsias from cuttings last year. How should will do well again this year? - Mrs K.M. Robb, Wooler, Northumberland.

Prune back the head A of the bush, taking the main shoots back to two pairs of buds, and removing weak shoots. When the new shoots break, nip out the tips after four to five pairs of leaves to encourage a bushy head. Feed well with liquid tomato fertiliser as the season progresses. Rub off any sucker shoots on the stem. Next winter, keep the plants cool and on the dry side, giving just enough moisture from time to time to stop them wilting.

My two-year-old pot-grown Crambe cordifolia has not flowered. Why? - Mrs M.E. Hum, Chichester, West Sussex.

A clump of crambe in full summer sail is quite a sight. When it flowers, a hollow trunk shoots up from coarse, kalelike foliage to branch and burst into a thousand white stars. One plant is good, but three look amazing. The trunks need staking, be-



Crambe cordifolia cause they will rise to 7ft, as much across. It is not an easy plant to pot-up. If you lift a crown you will have to slice off a bud with some of the fat, arm-like roots attached. The chances are that the main flowering-sized buds will be in the middle of the clump, and almost unpottable without including the whole clump. or without cutting off all the roots. Meanwhile, all the bits of root you left behind sprout new crambe plants. Crambe is most easily grown from seed, using modest amounts of compost. You have to wait three or four years for the crown to reach flowering size. Do not feed it too much nitrogen: this makes the crown soft and sometimes rot or go hollow. Plant out in rough. well-drained soil.

By how much, and when, should I cut back my straggly threelithospermum? P. Miles, Gosport. Hampshire

an evergreen hummock and fine sky-blue flowers, but lacks that captivating lustre of the commoner species.

- N.J. Foster, High Wy-A Yes and no. It depends

on the age of the plants you buy. Usually they are a couple of years old when you buy them and, after a year of estab-

Plants that are well cared for will crop for 15-20 years. • Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, Pennington St. London El 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and

Lithospermum diffus-

or Lithodora diffusa as it is now called, looks wonderful as a firstyear plant in a small pot and covered in intense, deep-blue tubular flowers. But it serves best when grown among other low. lime-hating plants, such as heathers and dwarf rhododendrons. To encourage neatness and density of foliage, nip out the tips of the leading shoots regularly, forcing it to branch out sideways. Planted on its own it almost always becomes bald at the centre in two to three years. Look out for the well-tried clones. such as 'Heavenly Blue' and 'Grace Ward'. More compact and lime-tolerant is the species Lithodora oleifolla, which has silvery leaves in

I would lust am asparagus but am told you have to wait for three years before cutting the first spear. Is this so? combe, Buckinghamshire.

lishing themselves in your garden, you can gradually begin to harvest the spears. Most reputable sellers will tell you the age of the plants. When you cut that first asparagus spear, remember that you are cutting the main stem of the plant and denying it the first option on production for the year. The plant makes other, secondary, shoots but it loses its first strongest shoots to you. So, to cut too soon in a plant's life is to deny it the energy to establish itself properly. The result would be thin spears for several years. Even established plants should be allowed to keep all their shoots after mid-June, so that they can grow on to feed the plant for next year.

that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

WE OFFER MORE: - 7
THAN A SALES RECEIPT

After The Sale

dealer has more extract for you. From lawn traction to mall-belond moment, there is a

hegunung of what you get with John Deeve. See your dealer 2000

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE

product to make your job easier The LX188 Learn Tractor is a good example. This ragge



One of the magnificent corners of Biddulph Grange garden. Staffordshire, where the National Trust has started work on rejuvenating the avenue laid out by James Bateman in the 1860s

Be brave, give old trees the chop

sound, formal tree plantings on any scale are best cleared and started again when they get old. With an avenue or formal. patterned planting, no amount of patching will restore the

original glory.
I was looking recently at an illustration of the devastation caused by the storm at Versailles. Not the 1987 storm, but an 18th-century one. And I wondered whether it was seen to be so terrible then as we would see it today?

The answer was yes. People were horrified. But devastation. whether by divine or human hand, can at times be turned to advantage; an opportunity to repair the design as well as the plants.

Who are we to deny our children the marvel of a perfect cathedral of trees by meanly messing about with

here and there as the old ones begin to die. Will they not say: "But all they had to do was replant the trees. The land was there. The design was there. All it needed was a few trees."

But it takes nerve to fell an avenue, however decrepit, and start all over again. In a garden open to the public it takes even more nerve.

The National Trust has steeled itself to do the right thing with the avenue at Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire. The garden was made James Bateman in the 1860s. I like to think of it as a private horticultural theme park: China here. Egypt there; dozen different character areas sitting beside each other in a dazzling display of styles and habitats.

Not surprisingly. Bateman's avenue was no ordinary avenue. It comprised several lines of trees. There was a line of giant redwoods (Sequoiadendron giganteum) from California, a second rank of deodar cedars from the western Himalayas, Austrian pines and behind them on an earth bank a row of red-flowered horse chestnuts. Aesculus x carnea. And roses by the yard. And yew hedges, too. Whew!

History has served Bateman ill. He had intended the giant redwoods to be the long-term trees soaring, he must have hoped, to 300ft, as they do in America. However, it seems that the British climate does not serve them so well. The tallest produced in this coun-

☐ Caerhays Castle, Gorran, St

Austell, Cornwall (01872 501310).

On the coast ten miles south of St

until May 3, Ham-ipm. £2.50.

under 16 £1.50, under 14 free.

Austell. Open tomorrow and Mon-Fri

This is one of the great magnolia

gardens of Britain, and breathtaking at

this time of year, particularly with the castle and its romanic setting. The

Williams family has developed the gardens since the late 19th century and

J.C. Williams bred a number of the most popular and successful camellias

grown today. A place every gardener

should visit at least once.

☐ Post House. Cwmbach.



Bill Malecki, the head gardener, planted 180 new trees

try is 53 metres (about 174ft), and looks the worse for wear. But later owners of Biddulph Grange felled the giant redwoods and kept the deodars, in time, these had become gappy, too, as first one then another fell prey to nature. The red-horse chestnuts were old and shabby, and the general effect last year was

one of extreme riredness. But imagine that avenue in its prime. Ranks of promising redwoods growing like rockets. Deodars with their greygreen branches clothed to the ground and weeping gracefully at the tips. The conkers flowering well in full light. And the perfume of roses all the way.

The whole avenue rises uphill from the garden to a plateau, and at its end is a huge, shallow stone vase, so surreally large that I always want to fill it with water and add an 8ft-wide Alka-Seltzer.

This avenue should be all

vigour, not decay.

fter pulling the plug on 30 remaining deodars and 31 horse chestnuts last autumn, the head gardener, Bill Malecki, this winter planted 180 new trees. The redwoods have been grown from seed from other Biddulph redwoods, so the original stock will continue into the next generation.

The red-horse chestnuts have been grafted from the originals on to stocks of the common horse chestnut. For visitors, there will now

be a period when the trees are strong and every one is blessed with the bloom of youth. At

allows gardening the u hand. But always around the corner are the spectres of honey fungus and freak winds, which can knock out a

tree at any time. Nevertheless, clearing out an old patch is a chance worth taking. If you were to worry about never getting every tree to maturity you'd never plant a hedge, let alone an avenue.

Mr Malecki has taken trouble to winch out the old tree stumps so that the risk of honey fungus getting a hold is minimised. To ensure healthy roots and strong trees more than a mile of drainage has been installed.

The shock of the change does not last long. Everyone hates to see trees go, but once the new trees are above eye height all seems well again. Different, but well. Decision time comes again

when an avenue needs thinning. Newcomers can be planted either at the normal spacing for mature trees or. for a quicker result, at half that distance, with the intention to thin later. Single lines of forest trees beside a drive can be thinned without too much disturbance to the remaining trees, but a complex scheme, such as Bateman's, with a shrubby understorey, is usually better planted at final spacing.

 Biddulph Grange garden (01782 517999) is half-a-mile north of Biddulph, near Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, Open Wed-Fri. noon-opm; Sat and Sun. lam-opm. £4. children £2

The Russian

The transaction the day of the control of the contr WEEKEND TIPS ■ Ventilate greenhouses and cold frames to prevent temperatures rising The Care of the Attended Parks to The Care of the Care ■ Prepare celery Letter mile - Commence

trenches and holes for runner beans and courgettes with plenty of old manure or compost.

too fast.

■ Gradually lower lawn-mower blades to summer-cutting height as the season Drogresses.

Make 3in tip cuttings of soft herbaceous plants, such as achillea and perennial salvias. Set the cuttings lin deep in sandy compost and cover with polythene to stop them wilting.

Pot up mint. Cut back any roses you have not yet pruned before vigorous growth starts.

■ Hoe the bare ground between plants regularly before weeds appear, rather than afterwards. Early-raised

bedding plants should ... gradually be given maximum fresh air in warm weather by lifting them out into sunshine if possible.

A827. Open daily April-Oct, 10am-

Bolfracks has spectacular views over

the Tay valley, and has been developed

by two generations of the Hutchison family since the 1920s. Now is the beginning of seasonal highlights in the

two well-planted walled gardens and

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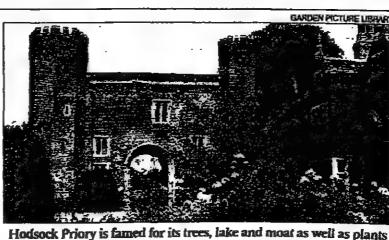
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City Breaks to Moscow & imperial capitals with our (1990 - OL COMPANS PORT)



spring and early summer, when the

Whitland, Dyfed (01994 484213). West of Carmarthen via A40 and B4298 to Meidrim, Blaenwaun and Cwmbach. Open daily April-Jun. 10am_£1.50, children 50p.

This is a garden full of interesting. colourful plants in a delightful setting along the banks of the River Sien. Small anemones, trilliums and native orchids are complemented by a succession of flowering shrubs, such as fine species of rhododendrons, through

Gardens to visit

first roses appear, including a superb, spectacular-sized 'Paul's Himalayan Musk' rambler. 🖸 Forgrove, Enborne, near

Newbury, Berkshire (0)635 40554). Three miles southwest of Newbury. off A343. Open tomorrow and June 9. 2-opm. £1, children free. The garden is adjacent to a nursery

(open more regularly) and together they are an education for owners of small gardens. Bulbs, alpines and small herbaccous plants are

> □ Bolfracks. Aberfeldy. Perthshire (01887 820207). Two miles west of Aberfeldy on

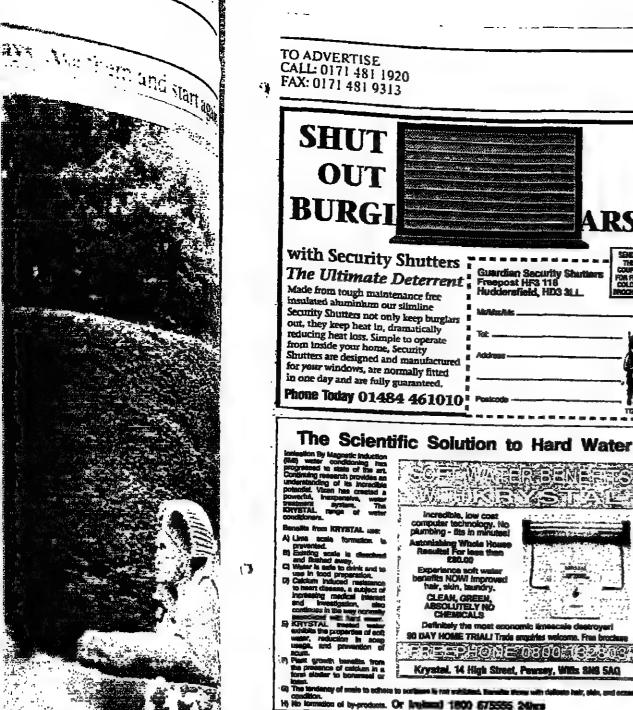
ised small bulbs in the orchard.

the more natural walks along the burn. garden — spring bulbs followed by flowering shrubs, primulas and meconopsis. There is an extensive rose collection in the walled garden. ☐ Hodsock Priory, Blyth, Nottinghamshire (01909 591204). Two miles from A1 on B6045 Blyth-

Worksop road. Open April-Aug.
Tues, Wed and Thurs, 2-5pm, and
May 12 and Jun 9. £2, children free. Hodsock's well-known show of snowdrops in February is followed by a succession of aconites, narcissus and bluebells which continue the garden's specialities, along with plantings in troughs and raised beds and naturalflowering display through spring until summer border-planting takes over... The garden's walks reveal distirtguished trees, the lake, moat and many

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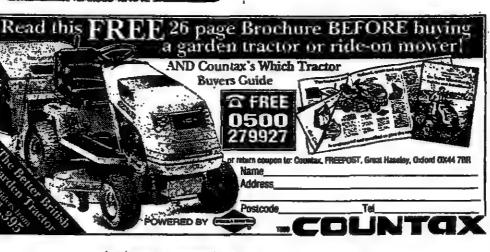
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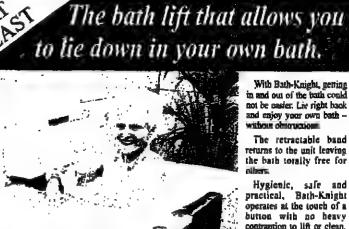
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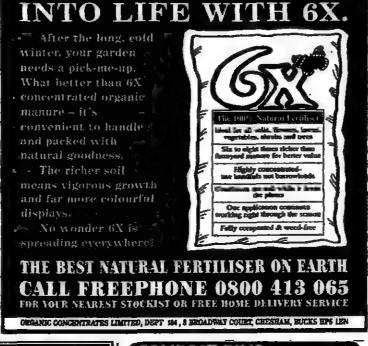
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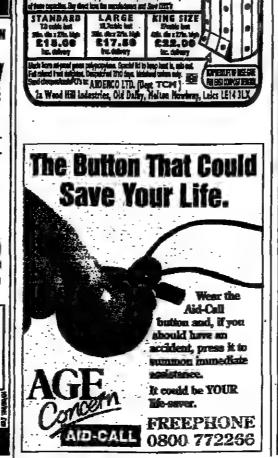
LIGHT

FIRST 5 INSTALLATIONS















Mavis Nicholson's property quest has led her to a barn in Wales

egotiations for the purchase of a 19thcentury two-up. house in mid-Wales broke down over a barn. The seller, a local farmer, needed access to the barn, while the prospective buyers, the television interviewer Mavis Nicholson and her Journalist husband. Geoffrey, were unwilling to face the prospect of farm vehicles constantly invading their privacy.

The impasse was resolved thanks to the timely intervention of a local estate agent. His suggestion was that the blowins - the local nickname for outsiders - should build the farmer a brand-new barn on his own land. Honour was served, and the parties remain firm friends to this day. The house was bought in 1976 for the asking price of £9.500 plus the barn and they moved there permanently in 1982. Without the barn, the Nich-

olsons would never have been interested in the property which might have been claustrophobic for two journalists working from home.

Conversion of the barn created space not only for his-and-hers offices, but also for a studio bedroom. lavatory, dark room, shower and playroom for visiting grandchildren. While Mrs Nicholson's office occupies the former dairy, her husband's was a pig sty, he notes. It is here that he has just finished collaborating with the rugby broadcaster Cliff Morgan on his autobiography Bewond the Fields of Play, while next door the agony aunt composes her monthly column for The Oldie and writes books.

The Nicholsons had intended to return to their roots in South Wales but prices were high, so when, on the last day of a holiday in Powys, they heard in the local pub of a nearby smullholding for sale, they

It was not the idyllic farmhouse of city dwellers' dreams. "In fact," says



The demolition of a lath and plaster partition wall revealed an oak skeleton, now a feature of the Nicholsons' living room

Mrs Nicholson, "it was a drab old house." But her husband saw its possibilities. When they discovered the kitchen had a slate floor, they decided to extend it through the living-room space created by the demolition of a partition wall. The oak skeleton of that lath and plaster wall remains.

Neighbours, who had dug up their own slate floors and contributed unwanted slabs to the Nicholsons, now long to have them back, says Mrs Nicholson. Her kitchen is long and narrow like a ship's galley. The Welsh dresser that stretches its length was rescued from a home in a nearby valley that was about to be flooded.

Removal of hardboard ceilings revealed original oak beams. An architect that Mrs Nicholson met by chance on a train advised her to leave them untouched. If they were not stained or varnished, he said, then they would breathe and take on a wonderful colour. And they have.

The couple were fortunate in their choice of builder. Hywel Jones, who lives two houses down the lane, was on their wavelength, interested in retaining what was worthwhile in the original fabric. Ground-floor space was greatly increased by the addition of a conservatory that looks out over pastures and the River Tanat. Upstairs, pine-clad walls and ceiling in a bathroom extension reflect the wood-

en interiors of the original rooms.

striking feature downstairs is the dark blue, wooden screen pierced by diamondshaped apertures which partitions the living room from the staircase. Such screens, their architect explained, are a feature of the area. The removal of yet more hard board revealed a chimney recess.

In the evenings, rabbits play around the house and a duck sits on three eggs hidden in the bushes beneath the kichen window. It is all a far cry from the Collingham Gardens

flat in central London that the Nicholsons first rented as newlyweds in 1952. The flat had been occupied by the ballerina Beryl Grey and was expensive. "We were living above our station." Mrs Nicholson says. "It was a fantasy flat." The weekly rent of £5 ate up a large part of the two advertising copywriters' salaries.

Soon they moved to a cheaper nearby basement flat, where they had to share a bathroom. Even this proved too costly, and they moved south of the river to Thurlow Park Road in Tulse Hill, where the rent was a more reasonable 23 shillings (£1.15) a week.

The Spectator columnist, Henry Fairley, introduced them to a newly completed block of flats in the Cut on the south side of Waterloo Bridge. where they shared a landing with a baronet, an actor who composed The Little White Bull for Tommy Steele and a property developer who was to marry Maya Angelou.

John Arlott, the cricket commenta-

tor, encouraged the couple back north across the Thames to a rented mansion-block flat in Highgate. "The LS a week rent would have covered a mortgage, but we had no security to buy," says Mr Nicholson, by then a freelance sports writer, while his wife had left advertising to bring

up their three boys.

It was a £2,000 pay-off following the premature collapse of a new sports magazine he was to edit that provided the down payment on their first house and mortgage in 1967, a three-storey Edwardian semi in Muswell Hill on sale for £6.500. Mrs Nicholson had to complete the purchase as her husband was away covering the Tour de France. It was, perhaps, fortuitous as the vendor received a better offer, but kept faith because he preferred her voice over the telephone to that of her rival.

The Nicholsons' decision to exchange city life for rural Wales was motivated by a joint desire to manipulate life rather than wait to be manipulated by it. "People make a big mistake when they retire and move somewhere else." Geoffrey says. "It is better if you anticipate it and move when you are still working."

They sold their semi in 1984 for ten times what they paid for it but, according to Geoffrey, they might have made half as much again if they had delayed a

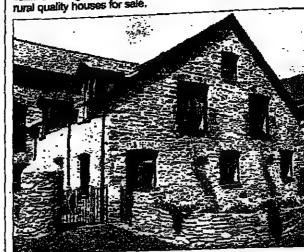
further three years.
Looking back over more than 40 years of nest-building, the couple have no real regrets, but admit to a few lapses in decorative taste that in retrospect cause the odd blush. There were the ubiquitous table lamps made out of chianti bottles and those DIY tables with shiny black legs that Geoffrey assembled in a moment of madness. Then, at a time when it was fashionable for every interior wall to be a different colour, they had Heal's paper on one side of a room and a vivid yellow paint on another. "It was all so Festival of Britain I can't believe we ever liked it," he says.

in their Welsh retreat, the two now both wish they had kept a foothold, however modest, in London, but friends in a similar situation assure them that the expense involved is

ALAN ROAD

BARN CONVERSIONS

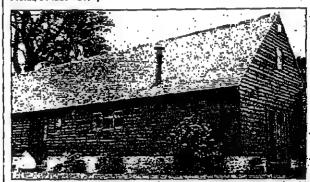
Barns became fashionable in the early 1980s when buyers hungry for something different, snapped up cheap, redundant farm buildings for conversion. Farmers soon realised there was money in their old cowsheds and prices soared, it was not uncommon for a run-down barn to fetch around £75,000. By the early 1990s such conversions had fallen out of vogue, and prices dropped. Now demand for these spacious properties, often with exposed beams and vaulted ceilings, is increasing, largely due to a shortage of rural quality houses for sale.



DEVON: The Malthouse, Holset Court, East Portlemouth, Salcombe, Converted bern in a countyard, close to the Salcombe estuary. Four double bedrooms, two battercoms (one an suite), lounge/dining room littchen/preaklast room and closkroom. Garage. About £189,950



WEST SUSSEX: The Glebe Bern, Wisborough Green, Convented Grade fi listed former bern in three quarters of an acre of garden and paddock, in a popular village. Four bedrooms, bethroom, shower room, atudy area, reception room and kitchen. About 2325,000 (Knight

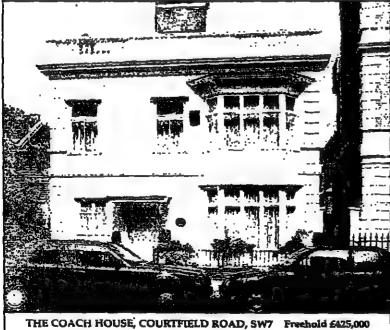


KENT: Grooms Quarters, Hull Place, Sholden, near Ocal, Re-built former beam in lewned gardens within a private estate. Three bedroot bathroom, shower room, two reception rooms, kitchen and utility. fronted lodge with garage. About £159,000 (GW Finn, 01304

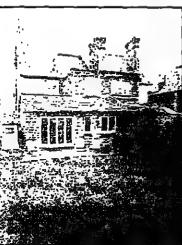
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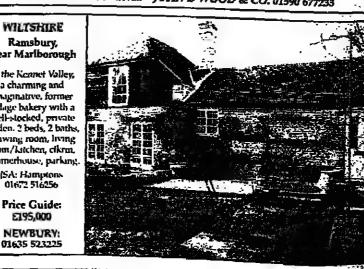
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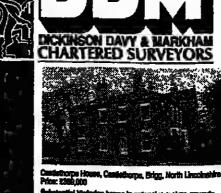
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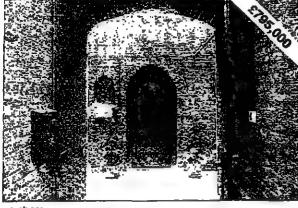


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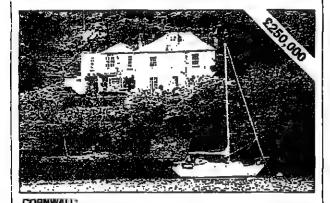


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To set up home on the sought-after island of Jersey. up a five-bedroom country house for less than a million with its mild climate and taxhaven status, being a million-aire is not enough. To meet the pounds, but most cost a great

ritain's offshore islands have a roman-

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for seclusion and low taxes. They range from the warm.

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tax authorities with at least gains or inheritance tax. Potential immigrants must on the market in Jersey for also have a residence permit. years, the Trinity Manor Esknown as a l(I-K), which tate, neur St Helier, has just qualifies them to buy a house been sold for around E6.5 on the island worth more than million, through estate agents F Le Gallais and Knight £750,000; but only five or six are granted every year. There Frank, to the chairman of a large City of London comare exceptions: you may have pany. The pink stone l6tha skill which is needed on Jersey, or marry an islander. century manor house and which is probably the only lodge, in 139 acres of formal sure way to become a resident. gardens and parkland comes with the feudal manorial title 'Seigneur de la Trinité" (Lord

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Britain's offshore islands have much to offer those in search of

seclusion and low taxes

18-acre estate in the parish of St John on Jersey's north of Alderney, a 15-minute flight coast, is currently on offer at 55 million through Hamptons Gothard and Trevor in St Helier. The 16th-century main house, built of pink granite. has six bedrooms and five reception rooms, including a vast baronial-style hall with vaulted ceiling and minstrel's gallery. It comes with a twobedroom cottage, two flats, a swimming pool and garaging for six cars.

It is easier to settle in Guernsey, provided you can find a suitable house. Only a limited number of properties on this 24 sq mile island are for sale to outsiders, about 90 per cent of the 17,000 homes being reserved for locals. Of the rest, only a few are on market at any one time.

Open-market properties are highly sought-after and prices are high. There is little left for less than \$250,000, which boys a Victorian terrace house or a small modern house on an estate. Detached houses in good condition range from £400,000 to £800,000. Larger country houses in up to five acres cost around £2 million.

woffers, a local estate agent, has an eightbedroom period terraced house in St Peter Port with sea views, in need of modernisation, at £295,000; or a fully restored Georgian town house, with four bedrooms at £525,000.

For \$690,000 you could buy Fort Saumarez, a six-bedroom villa and annexe in 3.42 acres with a Martello tower, on the island's west coast overlooking Lihou Island, on offer through Knight Frank.

Estate agent Shields & Co is asking £7 million for Havilland Hall, a Regency house huilt at the turn of the 19th century for Sir Thomas de Havilland, near St Peter Port. Set in 55 acres of parkland, it has six bedrooms and six reception rooms, farm buildings, walled garden, paddocks and tennis court.

The smaller Channel Island from Guernsey or Jersey or 35 minutes from Southampton, is more welcoming to home buyers as there is no two-tier

housing market. Just three and a half miles by one and a half, with a population of 2.400. Alderney, like the other Channel Islands. is a fully fledged tax-haven. It has its own government, power and water supplies, emerency services and schools. There are no high-rise blocks and hardly any crime on the island, which has white sandy

beaches and one golf course.

The island's authorities will

Guernsey. A two-bedroom flat in a two-storey block starts at £50,000: traditional stone cottages and small modern houses from £75,000. Bungalows with three bedrooms, garden and sea views start £L20,000; detached froni houses with some land fetch upwards of £180,000.

One of the largest houses on the island, a seven-bedroom. stucco-fronted Victorian house in two acres, the former home of the late cricket writer and commentator John Arlott, recently sold for around £450,000 through local agents Beli & Co.

The same agent is asking £79,900 for a one-bedroom granite cottage near St Anne. You could buy a pretty terraced two-bedroom cottage. with a walled garden, for £82,500; or a detached three-

The Isle of Man has attracted many wealthy immigrants from the UK mainland, inchuding Nigel Mansell, who last year sold his six-bedroom custom-built house in 160 acres near Port Erin for around £1.25 million.

The 227 sq mile island, with its relaxed, virtually crime-free environment, and taxes on income at 15-20 per cent with no capital gains or inheritance tax, stamp duty or property the European Union, who need no special financial qualifications for residency.

T t is a well-ordered community, with its own National Health Service. as in the Channel Islands, and some good schools. It offers mountain glens and deserted beaches, with good fishing, sailing, windsurfing, golf and motorsports, including the annual TT races.

There has been no property boom. The market is relatively stable, though prices are rising as more people move there. Many of the newcomers work in the growing off-shore financial sector.

Property prices start around £40,000 for a two-bedroom flat in a low-rise block. A small modern semi costs from £50,000 to £60,000; threebedroom detached bungalows from £70.000 to £80,000, and four-bedroom executive detached houses around. £150,000. Large period country houses with land fetch from £500,000 to more than £5 million.

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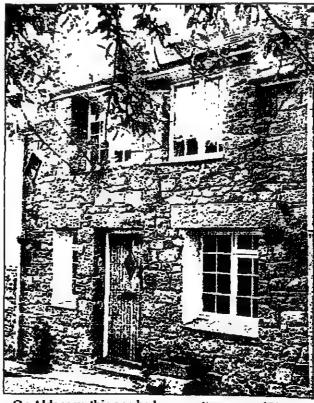
RITABLE

Currently on the market, through local agents Chrystals, is the Nunnery, home of Robert Sangster. The 18th-century mansion in 55 acres of park and woodland, with frontage on to the river Doug-las, is for sale at £3.5 million. It has five bedroom suites, four reception rooms, nursery and staff wing as well as its own chapel, indoor and outdoor pools, stabling, two cottages and two gate lodges.

Legal fees are the only significant cost involved in property purchase on the Isle of Man, amounting to around I-II2 per cent of the purchase

CHERYL TAYLOR

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On Alderney, this one-bedroom cottage costs £79,900

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PET NEWS

Broadcasting budgies

WHY do the residents of EastEnders, Coronation Street and Brookside have hardly any pets? asks Margaret Ferries, the Editor of Pet Business World.

"Mavis in Coronation Street used to have a budgie, but they had a storyline about it laying an egg when it was obviously a cock," she says. "One in every two households has a pet of some kind. So why are the soaps not reflecting this? I've written to the producers but they say that animals add to the costs." Ms Ferries wants to

compile a list of all pets appearing in soaps. If you spot one, write to her at: Pet Business World, 9 Tufton Street, Ashford, Kent TN23 IQN.

Get thee to a swannery

DISASTER has struck the swan-lovers of Polperro, Cornwall. Two swans, Fred and Queenie, had become firm village favourites and were fed bread and pet food. But when visitors joined in the feeding, a bunch of mallards muscled in on the bonanza. Fred responded by drowning their ducklings. Tourists were appalled and this week Fred and Queenic were banished to a

Foreign fish in fashion

SPRING has been a little late this year, but it has given breathing space to aquatic gardeners. Bob Clarke, a livestock buyer for Pet City, a pet supermarket, forecasts that sales of koi carp—a relative of the goldfish—will go swimmingly. He has shipped in 10,000 from Israel. A mature koi, 30in-long, costs £599; £199 for a thumb-

JACK CROSSLEY

Taking the bounce out of Beau

If your dog has the upper hand, a professional

trainer may be

the answer

eauregard, our black labrador, must be the most handsome dog in the world. His coat glistens, his brown eyes gleam, his tail is a banner, waving in the park. He is the ultimate hound, except for one big snag - he bounces.

The problem is that we live in Fulham, west London, which is not the ideal place for big dogs that grow bigger every day. We had intended to head for Wiltshire to join the Aga set, but just as Beau arrived the bottom (ell out of the housing market. So here we sit, waiting for a buyer and watching

He is ten months old and immensely good-natured, but after he had flattened an elderly gentleman and a small girl in the local park, it became obvious that Beau would have to be trained.

All dogs — but especially big. city-bound dogs — are happier for a spot of training and we soon discovered that dog training and dog support services can be found in the state of the stat in most major towns. There are walking services for working families, encounter groups for lonely dogs, playgroups for superactive dogs and a huge range of training classes where dogs and their owners are taught the elements of good behaviour and control. These services can be contacted through the designed and in the local peners or classified ads in the local paper or. more usefully, through the local vet. As we both work from home we did not need a walker, and as Beau has us and his chum Saffie, the Jack Russell, he is never lonely. What he needed was a firm hand.

Evening classes and training sessions in the park did not work. Beau is extremely sociable and every lesson degenerated into a romp. Then, just as we'd given up hope, we chanced on Mark Thompson in Richmond Park. He was sitting on the grass surrounded by a score of dogs of every size and breed, all perfectly behaved and all without visible restraint. If he could do that with assorted hounds, then



Dog trainer Mark Thompson with some of his charges in Richmond Park, London. Beau, the author's black labrador, is fourth from left

maybe a miracle could be worked on Beau - and so it proved.

Mr Thompson is one of Britain's leading professional dog trainers, but he denies that he just loves dogs. "I don't love all dogs, but I get on with them. As for training them.

I think it's a knack."
Hiring a professional dog trainer is like entering your offspring for Eton. He or she will first interview you and the hound before deciding when the training will start. This is usually at about six months, when the puppy has some kind of attention span and can retain the training. It depends on the dog but, given training and a lot of homework by the owner, a bouncing. lead-tugging, run-off-and-won't-

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come-back puppy can be transformed in about four weeks.

We enrolled Beau as a day dog and off he went to school. Four days later he was expelled. "He's too young," Mr Thompson said. "I will show you some basic controls and we will try again in a month."

For the next few weeks we worked on the basics: teaching Beau to sit at the kerb, not to leap on visitors, to wait to be invited to eat. Slowly, he became more tractable and a month later he went back to class. Mr Thompson collected Beau early in the morning and brought him back about 4pm. The day began with a bit of socialising to work off the energy, followed by a couple of hours of individual training, then more play and then group training. A lot of this training was directed at us. We had to keep up the good work and see that Beau did his homework and did not resume bouncing when Mr Thompson was not around. These lessons depend on persistence, praise and reward, not on punishment or scolding; over the weeks Beau was transformed. He loved his lessons and became very fond of Mr Thompson, who seems to exercise some form of mystic con-

trol over the dogs.

Training at this level is not cheap. The cost is about £20 a day but the results are worth it. We

have learnt to control Beau and life has become much less stressful. Beau will trot along quietly on his lead, stop at gates and at the kerb and - usually - comes back when called. Much of this training has rubbed off on Saffie, so we now have two happy hounds thanks to a lot of hard work, and Mr Thompson.

Now if we can sell the house and move to Wiltshire, life will be just about perfect.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

■ Mark Thompson accepts dogs from all parts of the country and can b contacted at The Dog House, 8 Ballentine Street, London SWIS IAL

A Vet Writes...

Phantom puppies

A nimals deceive us. Hamsters feign death if they are intensely cold. Birds do "broken wing acts" when a nest is threatened. Bitches deceive themselves, and us. by believing they're pregnant and behaving accordingly, when they're not — even if they have never had a close encounter with a dog in their life. It's normal. Every bitch has a false pregnan

cy six to nine weeks after season. It happens because the ovaries produce a progesterone-type hormone
the one governing pregnancy
and inducing milk production
after every season, regardless of
mating, and the body reacts to it. The lining of the uterus thickens, prepared to receive the embryos, even if there aren't any. The udder and teats develop, and there's a general slowing down and an "!

must take care of myself" attitude. The signs are barely detectable in some bitches. Others show marked physical and behavioural changes, convinced they're having pups. They make nests, they take toys to bed and cherish and protect them. Hence stories of kittens being suckled by a Great Dane, and orphaned fox cubs being reared by a terrier. It goes further. I had a springer spaniel who collected day-old chicks during her false pregnancy until the mother hen took

Most false pregnancies end after a few weeks without complications but sometimes things go wrong. The lining of the uterus can thicken excessively and lead to "pyometra" - a life-threatening accumulation of pus. Excessive thirst, enlarged abdomen, possibly a creamy pink discharge are signals that say: "See the vet quickly".

JAMES ALLCOCK

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Dr Vernon Coleman

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beyond measure. Now you can share the information that

gave me back a normal life. I have produced a book called "Relief from IBS" that explains the methods I used to solve

my IBS problem. The advice is written in an easy-to-follow

style and includes a series of simple, practical guidelines designed to help you deal with your IBS in the same way that I

dealt with mine. The topics covered include: causes and

symptoms; how to look after your digestive system; relief from wind; tips on how to cope with stress; foods that can

make things worse; and much, much more. Having suffered from IBS for several years I know what a

devastating effect it can have on your life and I do hope my

book will be able to help you. You can try my advice without risk - if you don't find the book helpful then simply return it

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A remarkable health guide by Dr Edwin • Lower high blood pressure naturally Flatto is now available that discusses methods the author believes can help stimulate your arteries to cleanse themselves - the natural way - without

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it's called "Cleanse Your Arteries & more energy than you know what to do with. You should not change medication doctor first. Share this special report with your doctor and it is likely you will find

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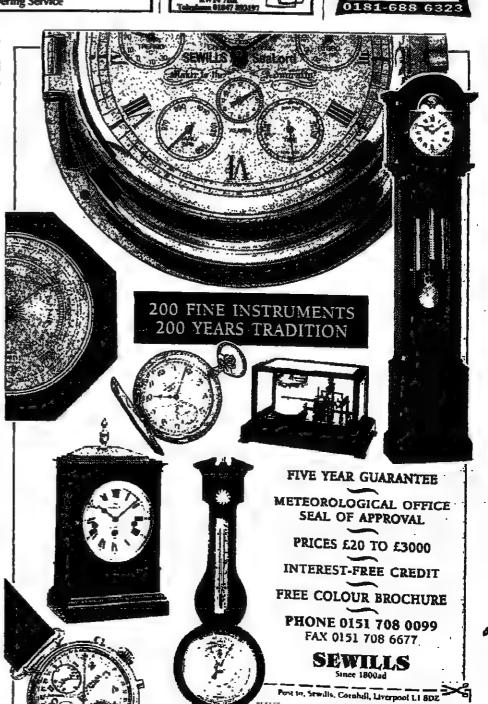
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ADDRESS



Whether your taste in bathrooms is modern minimalism or nostalgic decadence, there are accessories to match

Splash out and enjoy a steamy soak

improving my education as I have spent in the bath I might have been a surgeon, a judge, or running a multinational company by now. But I don't regret a single hour spent in steaming, scented water with a gin and tonic at my elbow and a toe languidly controlling the hot tap.

A truly self-indulgent bath will cure, or at least ameliorate, a multitude of ills, from decorator's bodyache to a broken heart, and any bathoholic will tell you that most of their best ideas emerge from the fragrant steam. But the surroundings have to be right.

If the bathroom is one of your main decorating priorities, there are accessories to match your taste. whether modern minimalist or nostalgie decadent.

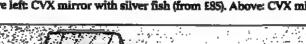
This year's bathrooms, if not white, are decorated in shades of eau de nil, sea green and Aegean blue. The London store Heal's has matching accessories for these watery shades in its verdigris-coloured plasterware with golden rims, handles and feet. Its toothbrush holder (£22.95), soapdish (£22.95) and pot (£36.95) have just the right blend of Etruscan and contemporary to make them work in any style of

Heal's has a good one-stop bathroom shop for those uncertain about the style they want, with offerings from "nostalgic", crazed china in cream and eau de nil (from £4.50 for a bowl) to a sharp, modern set in white china with silver fish (from 19.50 for a soapdish), and Mediterranean white ceramics with blue and purple mosaic marine motifs (from £7.95

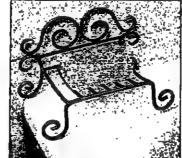
for a tooth mug).

For a classical look equally athome with stark white or traditional decoration, consider the iron bathroom shelf — a hanging unit of three basket shelves, 21 hin x 12in, £29.95 - from the McCord catalogue, or turn to the Bombay Duck





Above left: CVX mirror with silver fish (from £85). Above: CVX mirror with leaping fish (£345), Heal's pot (£36.95), soapdish (£22.95), toothbrush holder (£22.95). Right: Bombay Duck's tumblers (£6.75) and bowls (£3.25)



Above: Bhs wire toothbrush holder (£12), soapdish (£5). Right: Bombay Duck's iron soapdish (£11.50)

catalogue, where you will find a graceful, curlicued, hand-forged iron soap stand (£11.50), a set of matching French hooks (£34.50) for towels and bathrobes, and a single shelf (about 24in x 9½in, E55) for

- your glamorous unguents.

To jazz up a white bathroom without going cute, there is the Bombay Duck's anodised aluminium collection in bright, iridescent green, turquoise, magenta, purple, red or gold: use lidded cannisters (from £8.95) for supplies, and choose different-coloured large

numblers (£6.75) as tooth mugs; breakfast bowls (£3.25) for soaps and bath crystals, and matching small candleholders with star cutouts (£5.75) to light your ablutions.

If you're following a marine

theme in cobalt blue rather than greens, some of the best value accessories are at Bhs, which has cobalt glass tooth mugs with raised fish motifs (£7) and matching fishshaped soapdishes (£5). Its chromewire fish design range is fun for a white-and-steel decorated bathroom, with a fish-shaped toothbrush holder (£12) and a matching lavatory paper holder (£12).

Bhs also has textured towels (the look of the moment) in plain white with blue and purple mosaic trims (bath towel £12) and in green with underwater motifs (bath towel £11) - match them with the Heal's mosaic ceramics

If you need a shower curtain to complement your cobalt theme, choose Habitat's Coral Reef curtain (clear with cobalt motifs) or the Seashell (clear with raised with shells and shellfish), both £27.50.

Bathroom accessory stockists

The Bathroom Catalogue, £2.95, 0131-665 0066. Bhs. branches nationwide. Bombay Duck, catalogue £2.50, 0181-964 8882

■ Jane Cooper, 0181-446 8595. C.P. Hart, catalogue £3, 0171-902 1000.

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Heal's, Tottenham Court Road, London WI and King's Road, London SW3, 0171-636 1666. 🗷 Czech & Speake, 30c Jermyr Street, London W1, 0181-980 4567. ■ McCord catalogue, 01793 43349. Street, London WC2, catalogue 0171-379 5128.

■ Wax Lyrical, 0181-561 0235 for

A touch of self-indulgence can be added with the executive bathrack (£79) from Wax Lyrical. It has two seahorse candleholders, a soap standing toothbrush holders. tray, space for two glasses and a shelf on which you could put a plate of canapes instead of the traditional

SOLID PINE

For the Edwardian bathroom, there are few things to beat Jane Cooper's brass-and-glass candleholder (£60), which hangs over the side of the bath.

loofah.

This would look perfect with fittings from Czech & Speake's

Edwardian range, made from solid brass with English porcelain or bone china (from E85 for a free-

If you're going for a more kitschy 1950s style, try funky fish-shaped tooth mugs (£18.50) from Mildred

For bathroom mirrors go to CXV in the King's Road, southwest London, which is packed with the glamorous and original. Its 38indiameter gilt mirror with raised leaping fish frame (£345) is spectacular. Mirrors with raised silver-

DAYS

TRIAL

in

your

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home

painted fish on blue frames (from £85) are less Baroque, but no less

CXV has an eclectic selection of decorative objects, such as bronze conch shells (£45), which would store enough cotton wool for a girls' dormitory, and driftwood-framed cases displaying pretty shells (to order, price on application).

On a more practical note, CXV has ceramic soapdishes with golden frog handles (£14.95) and a pewter fish skeleton soapdish (£29.50) with matching square mirror (29.95).

To shop at home for everything from baths and showers to new taps and lavatory brushes, you two more catalogues: C.P. Hart and The Bathroom Catalogue. Though both cover every style, including fixtures and accessories designed by Philippe Starck for an uncompromisingly contemporary look, the former veers to the traditional.

Think about it: you could make your choices lying in the bath.

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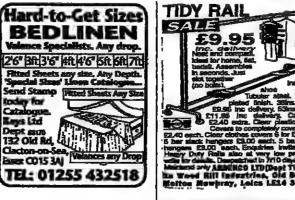
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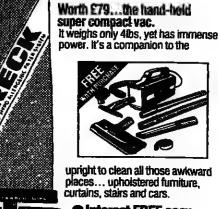
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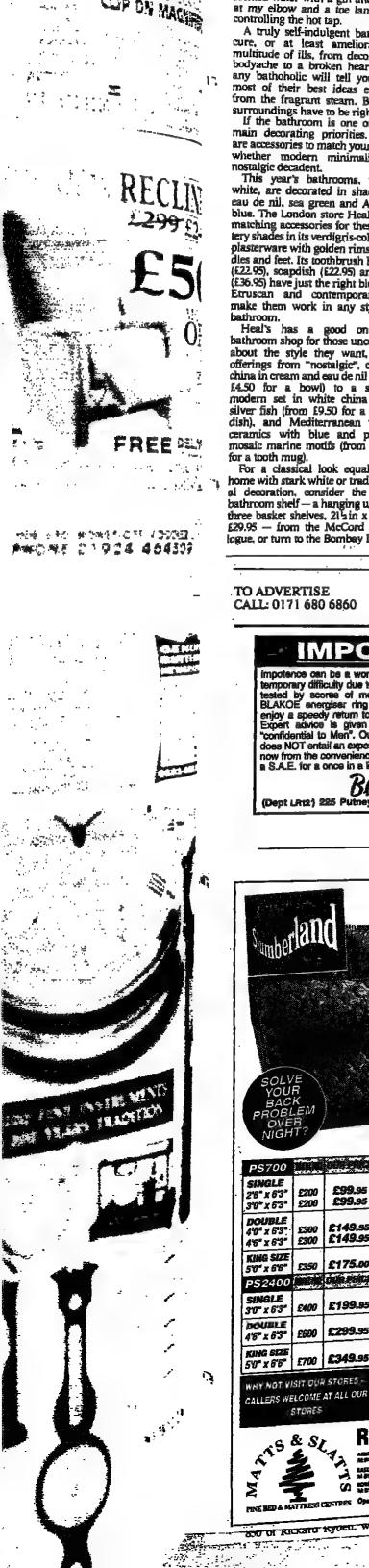
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BOOKS

Now let us praise Gloria in excelsis

FOR any woman living today, life can be neatly divided into pre and post-feminism. The label itself may be out of fashion, but this biography of Gloria Steinem reminds us women in our thirties how much we owe to those who forged a path for us through unforgiving thickets.

When Steinem was a journalist wanting to write about politics, she had to defeat the universal notion that women were capable of tackling only fashion, beauty and childbirth. "Would men like to write about hunting, shaving and paternity?" she asked in a 1909 New York Times book review. It is testimony to her success in rebalancing the roles between the sexes that men writing

Mary Ann Sieghart is reminded of how much women today

owe to the struggle of America's most glamorous feminist

unselfconsciously about fatherhood fill the features pages of national newspapers today.

Steinem fought and fought again to change men's attitudes towards women and women's attitudes to themselves. Her crusade came at great personal sacrifice to her physical and, occasionally, mental health. She forsook marriage and children, though she would have loved a family — but in her day. marriage usually meant domesticity and passivity. And she was brutally

THE EDUCATION OF A WOMAN: The Life and Times of Gloria Steinem By Carolya Heilbrun Virago, 520

treated by journalists who felt both threatened and fascinated by her combination of beauty and brains. For Steinem has been the glamorous face of American feminism, in contrast to the frumpier Betty Friedan or the dykes-in-dungarees

radical fringe. Her allure was both

help and handicap. It was impossible, with her as an example, to condemn feminists as bitter because they were too ugly to attract a man. but her beauty caused resentment among other women (notably Friedan) and encouraged the claim that it had smoothed her path to fame. Her typically caustic response was, "If women could sleep their way to the top, why aren't more women heads of companies?"

Steinem comes out of this biography as brave, loyal and generous as

well as witty. But then Heilbron is a friend of her subject and the biography is unashamedly sympathetic, only marginally this side of gushing. It is hard to imagine why someone so ostensibly kind and laid-back as Steinern should have been the target of so much abuse.

The moral, perhaps, is that a movement which tries to include half the human race is bound to find its members in conflict as often as they agree. It pained Steinem that the press always jumped upon these divisions. But it is to her credit that so much of what she fought for has now been achieved.

● The author writes about politics for The Times



Steinem: paid a high personal

price for her fight for change

John Naughton on 100 years of danger, lies, duplicity and death in the name of nuclear progress

Fallout of an atomic century

A HUNDRED years ago this year, a French physicist called Henri Becquerel placed a piece of uranium on a photographic plate and noted that it became fogged as a result. The uranium was behaving, in other words, like a light source
— except that the "light" was not visible to the human eve. It

was mankind's first conscious

encounter with radioactivity. Five years later. Becquerel borrowed from the Curies a small glass phial containing radium and put it in his waistcoat pocket. After about six hours he noticed that it had begun to burn his skin -through several layers of thick, bourgeois clothing. It was mankind's first conscious encounter with the downside

of radioactivity. Since then we have learnt how to harness it to cure, to destroy and to generate electricity. In the process we generated a mountain of lethal waste products, some of which are unimaginably toxic and remain so for unconscionable periods. The "half life" of plutonium, for example — that is, the time it takes for half of a given mass of the substance to transmute into another element — is approximately 25,000 years. Yet there are about 1,200 tonnes of the stuff around worldwide and nobody, but nobody, knows what to do with it other than burying it in a very deep hole somewhere and praying that it remains undisturbed by seismic forces and the curiosity of

Journalist and film-maker Jeremy Hall had the smart

BOOK NEWS

How to

serve up a

winner

YET another award for The

River Cafe Cook Book (Ebury). Its authors, Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers, have won the 1990 Glenfiddich food

book of the year award. The

best drink book was Rhône

Renaissance by Remington Norman (Mitchell Beazley).

H. R. F. KEATING, creator

of Inspector Ghote, has be-

come the eleventh 11th winner

of the Crime Writers' Associ-

ation/ Cartier Diamond

Dagger award for outstand-

ing contributions to the genre.

Other recipients have includ-

ed John le Carré, P. D. James.

Dick Francis, Ruth Rendell

and Reginald Hill. Keating's

latest novel is The Bad Detec-

● THE controversial £30.000

Orange Prize for the best novel

written by a woman and

published in Britain - why a

special prize for women only?

- has proved even more

controversial in its first shortlist, which includes Hel-

en Dunmore's A Spell of Winter and Anne Tyler's Lad-

der of Years, "Obscene, brutal,

boring and dreary drivel was

the headline on a Daily Tele-

graph report this week which

said that Susan Hill and Val

Hennessy, two of the judges.

thought British entries were

substandard, violent or ob-

scene, or full of dreary self-

obsessions such as marriage

breakdowns. The others on

the shortlist are Spinsters

(Pagan Kennedy). The Hun-

dred Secret Senses (Amy Tan).

Eveless Eden (Marianne Wig-

gins) and The Book of Colour

Üulia Blackburn).

tive (Macmillan).

LIVES: Tales from the Atomic Wasteland By Jeremy Hall Penguin, £6.99

idea of marking the centenary of Becquerel's discovery with an account of the experiences of people who are coping with the downside of the nuclear miracle. In the process he has produced an absorbing and troubling book based on encounters with victims of radioactivity, people who are struggling to solve the waste disposal problem and "whistle-blowers" concerned at the incompetence or mendacity of governments and corporations involved in the conduct or regulation of the decontamination business.

It is hard not to become enruged by this account of the cavalier recklessness and rank dishonesty with which, over the years, the governments of all the nuclear powers have exposed their own and others' citizens to the perils of radioactive fallout.

But all that is heavy water under the bridge, and one of the nice things about Mr Hall's book is the way it transcends mere outrage. For while indignation is cheap. solutions in this area are likely to be very expensive.

What counts now is finding some way of decontaminating the mess that has been bequeathed to us by those who sought to exploit - for good reasons and bad, by fair means and foul - the power which first fogged M Becquerel's plate a century ago.

CAME to Julie Myerson's

The Touch with a certain

amount of scepticism. Myer-

son writes a regular column

for The Independent which is

so smug and imaginatively

thin that I found it hard to

believe the same woman could

produce a novel worth

reading.
She has, although that does

not mean that I enjoyed it very much. In fact. The Touch left

me feeling thoroughly de-

pressed. It is a bleak and

strangely directionless novel in which the life of Frank

Chapman, fanatic preacher

and healer, becomes entwined

with those of two sisters,

Gayle and Donna, their broth-

er Simon and Donna's boy-

friend, Will. Frank lies

bloodied and supposedly beat-

en on Clapham Common.

Gayle. Donna and Will rescue

him. and Gayle, a nurse.

accompanies him to hospital.

where she slowly befriends

During his conversations

with Gayle, Frank reveals

himself to be a right nutter but

he is convinced that he can

heal Donna, who has a myste-

rious spinal disorder. Gayle and Will, who are almost

more desperate than Donna to

find some kind of cure for her.

are prepared to go to any lengths, and they finally per-

suade Donna to see Frank.

Myerson is clever to have

chosen a wildly implausible

situation in which to demon-

strate how desperation deter-

mines the actions of otherwise

ordinary people, and sends

them veering towards choices

which are neither practical

nor sensible but passionate

and illogical. She writes well

about desire, sex and the sad

with bizarre results.

him as he recovers.

unconvinced

THE TOUCH

By Julie Myerson

elasticity of many contempo-

rury sexual relationships, but

thing wrong with the plot or the pace of The Touch, but it

somehow lacks colour and definition, as if Myerson has

only a hazy idea of what she is

brilliant novelist make. it is not that there is any-

ervation alone does not a



Mushroom gathering: French atmospheric test in the early 1970s at Mururoa atoil in the South Pacific — the history of nuclear power is a story of incompetence or mendacity by our governments and

Suffer the parents

MICHAEL GRANT JAFFE'S Dance Real Slow is about being a parent, and the allencompassing responsibilities this entails, at a practical and an emotional level. His story is unusual in focusing on the role of the father. His protagonist, Gordon Nash, a community lawyer living in Kansas, is obliged to bring up four year-old Calvin singlehanded when the boy's mother, Kate, walks out, saying she

is too immature to be a parent. She then decides to return in order to find out what being a "Mom" is all about. After a few days and a bungled kidnap attempt, she comes to the conclusion that motherhood is not for her, leaving Gordon to raise his son with the help of lovable, child-friendly Zoe.

In his depiction of Gordon's relationship with his young son. Grant Jaffe gives a convincing account of the incidental pleasures and occasional stresses of looking after young children. But it seems a pity that in his desire to offer a sympathetic portrayal of fatherhood to offset the many unpleasant stereorypes in literature, he merely reinforces a new kind of stereotype — the 'New Man", in all his repel-

lent smugness.
The tribulations of parenthood are also central to Joyce Mandeville's Careful Mistakes. Jilly Parkhurst, a widow in her early forties, learns on the day of her father's death that her 18-year-old daughter Chloe is pregnant. Since Jilly herself was forced by her parents to have an unwanted baby when she was a girl, she is anxious not to foist such a decision on her daughter.

FIRST NOVELS

■ DANCE REAL SLOW By Michael Grant Jaffe Bloomsbury, £13.99

CAREFUL MISTAKES By Joyce Mandeville Little, Brown, £14.99 ACQUIRED TASTES By Simone Mondesir

Mandarin, £5.99 Matters are complicated by the fact that her home is filled with a succession of priests. with whom Jilly finds herself

debating "pro-choice" and "pro-life" positions. The book is less than 200 pages long, but there is a great deal packed in. However, having so many points of view in such a short book undermines the otherwise careful realism of the narrative.

After these serious concerns, Simone Mondesir's Acquired Tastes seems all the more frivolous. Two friends - glamorous television presenter Vanessa and dowdy academic Alicia - are rivals for the affection of lascivious Dr Fergus Archibald.

When Alicia finds Vanessa and Fergus in flagrante delic-to on the college high table, she decides to exact public revenge on them both. She seduces one of Vanessa's colleagues and persuades him to substitute a videotape of Vanessa and Fergus's sexual shenanigans for the tape of Vanessa's show.

The dialogue is obvious, the characterisation flat, but since the book has no literary pretensions, this hardly matters.

CHRISTINA KONING

When it is tough to be a teen angel CAIRO HUGHES

By Millie Murray FRENCH LEAVE By Eileen Fairweather FAT CHANCE By Leslea Newman THROUGH THICK * AND THIN Edited by Jane Waghorn The Women's Press.

£3.50 each A SERIES of books for teenage girls, Livewire is currently being relaunched with a snazzy set of psychedelic covers. These four volumes are exercises in gritty realism; no midnight feasts and hockey

matches here.

Cairo Hughes deals with the trials of a black girl adopted by a white family and their dizzying relocation to London: French Leave tells the story of 16-year-old Maxine, who moves into a gruny Finsbury Park bedsit and cannot afford to eat; and Fat Chance is the tale of bulimic Judi and her graduation into therapy. Through Thick and Thin is a collection of "reallife" confessions about real girls' traumas - foster parents, arranged marriages, new brothers and sisters, and - my favourite - the horrors of having a Tory grandma.

Given that the writers are all well-meaning women who long since said goodbye to acne and Take-That, the



Newman: bulimic heroine

realism is pretty successful. The general principle must be that girls want to read about girls like themselves, feelings they can identify with, envi-

ronments they can recognise. course, to offer familiar circumstances in which to find some recognisable truth. It might be, say, that the story of a Pennsylvania boardingschool runaway in 1951 has a lot more to say to a teenage Londoner in 1996 than the story of a teenage Londoner in 1996, if the reader and the writer are prepared to make a

bit of an effort. On the other hand, perhaps you will never read Catcher in the Rye if you do not start with something easier: buried in Cairo Hughes is a clear recommendation to read Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye. in which a black girl with an identity crisis would find not only the solidarity she might find in Cairo Hughes, but also the beauty and brilliance

which the latter cannot offer. These are by no means great books. They offer nothing more than you expect, but they are honest, likeable and decent. If the same could be said of all culture manufactured for teenagers - why then, we would be on the right

VICTORIA COREN

Just not the marrying kind

LIFE is painful. Love is agony. Discovering a crucial fact about yourself or the people you adore acons after everyone corporations else has twigged is even worse. Mimi Smithers, the narrator of Love Junkie, is a disappointed, sex-hating, suburban wife. She falls among a group of opera-loving men who go to Fire Island Preaching to the

for the summer and keep amyl nitrate in their desks. Having tried to kiss one of them and sent him into a frozen panic that belatedly alerts her to his sexual orientation, she says to the reader: "I know what you're thinking. What's wrong with this woman? Doesn't she possess a working set of eveballs?"

Even though her antennae usually let her down and her fantasies and generosity invite every kind of exploitation. Mimi gets there in the end and learns a great deal that she — and probably many readers — would prefer not to know about

By Robert Plunkett Ouartet, E9

FIFTY WAYS OF SAYING **FABULOUS** By Graeme Aitken Headline Review, £5.99

the New York gay scene in the early 1960s just as news of Aids is spreading.

Switching from Mimi's interesting

collection of "faux tortoise objets" and the clothes she makes for her epileptic chihuahua to the filming of a porno-

graphic movie and other filthy goings-on all over New York, Love Junkie is cruel, gross in parts, and extremely funny. Rather different is the story of fat, shortsighted. 12-year-old Billy-Boy in Graeme

Aithen's first novel. Fifty Ways of Saving Fabulous. The son of a New Zealand

punish someone, "He'd give them a wife like your mother and a son that can't play rugby", Billy-Boy inhabits a make-believe world in which he is Judy Robinson, heroine of Lost in Space. Told by a bullying school-mate that he is "acting the poul". he innocently asks what poul means and thinks the answer sounds just his bag: "Men who dress up in frocks and have 50 ways of saying fahulous."

None of it seems to have any connection with his interest in photographs of nuked men or the strange but pleasurable activities he enjoys with Roy, the school "freak". It is not until much later, after his unthinking rejection of Roy has led to an appailing calamity, that Billy-Bay begins to understand. Touching and sad, Fifty Ways of Saying Fabulous also has some very furmy moments.

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KATE HATFIELD

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

APPASSIONATA Jilly Cooper (Bantam) THE WOMAN WHO WALKED INTO DOORS Roddy Doyle CREDO Melvyo Brage (Sceptre) KEN HOM'S HOT WOK BOOK Ken Hom (BBC)

Myerson: disengaged

driving at, and even then her heart is not quite in it. She seems curiously disengaged from the narrative and the prose, which is a pity because from time to time she displays

This is not a bad novel, but it lacks conviction, and why so many people have made a fuss about Myerson I cannot quite see. I have not read her first novel, Sleepwalking, but it won her great acclaim so I probably should. However, if her second is anything to go by, all I can honestly, sum-

MARY LOUDON

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READY STEADY COOK Anthony Worrall Thompson (BBC)

CHILDREN'S BOOKS Fear and loving

GOOD writers for children of eight upwards can bring fantasy and menace into a story without sinking into the horror genre. Bad writers cannot. Anne Merrick succeeds in Hannah's Ghost (Spindlewood, £9.95), an insight into a lonely child's imagination. From ten-year-old Hannah's persistent "story-telling" grows Morphy, a sinister clown only she can see. At first frightened, Hannah learns that poor Morphy is complete-ly controlled by her stories and that she can only exorcise him by providing a happy

story for him to live in. Michael Morpurgo's The Butterfly Lion (Collins, £0,00) ends on a delicately ghostly note but also has a satisfying sense of bravery and constancy rewarded. This poignant love story of a boy, a girl and a lion turn apart then miraculously reunited in war-tern France draws readers of eight and up into a first understanding of the horror of war.

For younger children. Why? (North-South Books, £9.99) is an off-heat, wordless essay on war by Russian Nikolai Popov: and the adorable Smeaties Print Winner So

Much by Trish Cooke and Helen Oxenbury is now in paperback (Walker Books, £5.99) - everyone in a large Afro-Caribbean family wants to cuddle the baby so much that at last he falls asleep cutely in his cot. Not for tough

We are seeing a Babeinduced surge in sheepdog stories such as Benedict Blathwayt's Kip - A Dog's Day (Julia MacRae, £8.99) Look out for a crow boom ico. with John A. Rowe's weird but touching Baby Crow (North-South, £5.50) and Rafik Schumi's The Crow who Stood on his Beak (North-South, £9.99). My-baby and four-year-old both love Jakki Wood's inventive Bumper'to Bumper - A Traffic Jam (Frances Lincoln, £8,99).

Lastly. Angela Wilkes has compiled the perfect couchpotato antidote: The Amazing Outdoor Activity Book (Durling Kindersley, £8.99) which will last through the spring. summer and beyond with brilliant answers to that awful outdoors is boring whinge from seven-pluses.

beyomer tailed on Bris. as will be lested for druge a sell as along it under as e of transport in an day to sough the true water an police believe more ursolon may be necessary tomern has been heightresearch in Strath the which revealed traces of the mill drivers out of 52 of in fatal accidents and police and was the officer investigating Manalion for a driver's be-There is 33 no place of in his blood but also drug tests established that hern under the influmazepam, a powerful milistribat can be legative

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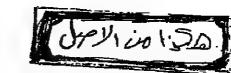
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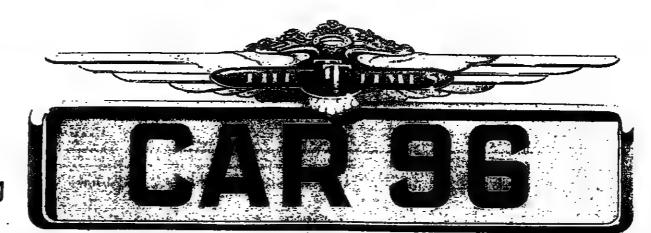


PART MONEY

tough be a tea



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SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

How drugs can really smash you up



roadside drug test similar to the breathalyser because of a growing belief among police and motoring organisations that drugs, legal and illegal, play a lar greater part in accidents than has previously been suspected.

Every driver killed on Britain's roads in the next two years will be tested for drugs as well as alcohol under a study launched by the Department of Transport in an attempt to gauge the true scale of the problem.

But police believe more urgent action may be necessary. Their concern has been heightened by research in Strathclyde, which revealed traces of drugs in 11 drivers out of 52 involved in fatal accidents. That survey was carried out after an officer investigating one fatal crash could find no explanation for a driver's behaviour. There was no trace of alcohol in his blood but a series of drug tests established he had been under the influence of temazeparn, a powerful tranquiliser that can be legally

prescribed but which is widely abused and sold on the street as "eggs" or "jellies". This prompted a re-examination of

evidence in 51 other cases. "It is a real concern. It's not just illegal drugs. We want to know more about the effect on drivers of prescribed drugs or even things like cold cures," said David Williams, Chief Constable of Surrey and chairman of the powerful traffic committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

"We believe that, with young drivers especially, the drink-drive message is getting across. Surveys show a much greater awareness of the dangers. But we don't think the attitude is the same where drugs are concerned."

Seven years ago, the last time the Department of Trans-port carried out its own research, the conclusion was that drugs were a fairly minor problem compared to drinking and driving. But a number of social studies since then, as well as crime statistics, suggest that while alcohol has become much less socially acceptable among young

people, the use of recreational drugs such as amphetamines, become much wider.

Earlier this year the Institate for Human Psychopharmacology estimated that across the European Union at least 4,500 road deaths and 135,000 serious injuries each year could be drug-related.

Although the figure for road deaths in Britain last year -3,665 - was one of the lowest on record, chief constables are still concerned that a large proportion are avoidable. For example, tests show that 14 per cent of all fatalaties are alcohol-related. Acpo recently agreed that drivers involved in accidents should be routinely

The main problems in devising a similar test for drugs are the wide variety of substances involved and the lack of data for deciding at what level many of them impair a driv-

Wipes are already available that can detect the presence of camabis, cocaine and ecstasy in a driver's perspiration on the hands, or even on a

steering wheel. But different wipes are required for each substance and even then it is a long way from detecting the presence of a drug to bringing a succesful prosecution. Under existing powers police would have difficulty proving that the level of intoxication was sufficient to impair driving.

roblems become even greater when it comes to drugs that can be obtained over the counter or on prescription. Even changes in hospital practice have compounded the problem. Anaesthetists have expressed concern about patients driving home after day surgery which may have in-Such operations have become much more frequent in recent years as the health service lights to clear waiting lists.

Unlike their predecessors. which often necessitated at least a one-night stay in hospital, modern anaesthetics do not leave a "hangover" feeling so doctors are concerned that many patients are driving before the effects of the drug have worn off, risking injury to themselves and other road

Similarly with prescribed drugs such as tranquilisers and anti-depressants there is a fear that familiarity may dull the effect of warnings. "Chemists are often very good at reinforcing the warning that drugs may make you drowsy or affect your judgment when they first supply a prescrip-tion. But people may go on taking such medicines for years and simply forget the dangers," says Edmund King, head of campaigns at the RAC.

According to statistics gathered during the Institute for Human Psychopharmacology's study, which was carried out by experts in 12 European countries, 17 per cent of motorists involved in accidents (not just fatal ones) in Britain are found to have taken drugs. These included antidepressants (5 per cent), cannabis

BEWARE FUMES THAT CAN LEAVE YOU HELPLESS

a blast of

t was 7am on Thursday. I rolled out of my hotel L bed and was hit smack between the eyes by a fastmoving bedside table. Dazed and confused 1 attempted to stand, but the cheap beige Axminster came speeding up to greet me, writes Helen Mound.

Two blows on the head in as many minutes, not a good start to the day. I wish I could blame my intima drinking partner, Mr Jack Daniels, for my intoxicated state, but the real villain was probably the unlikely figure of Mrs Mopp.

Evidently my hotel had furnigated the room with an industrial strength air freshener after I'd complained that it smelt of smoke.

The furnes were powerful

Knocked out by but there are a lot of other drugs that can render a

instant fresh air enough to send me floating around the ceiling with Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds all night. In the morning the

bathroom mirror revealed marshmallow eyes staring back at me. But here's the real problem --- by 8 o'clock 1 was clearly not fit to drive. I cannot be certain, but I suspect my reactions were slow and my attention span short. Yet it was perfectly legal for me to hop behind wheel of my car and float

off about my business. My experience might have been an unusual one.

responsible for hundreds of accidents, because motorists are unaware of their effects. Edmund King, the RAC's Head of Campaigns, says: "Consumers need clear information and advice on the dangers of driving when taking medication. At this time of year, millions of people are taking traditional cold cures, and will soon be buying sedative antihistamines for hay fever and

breathing disorders that are

common in the summer. All

these can affect driving."

driver unfit or impaired

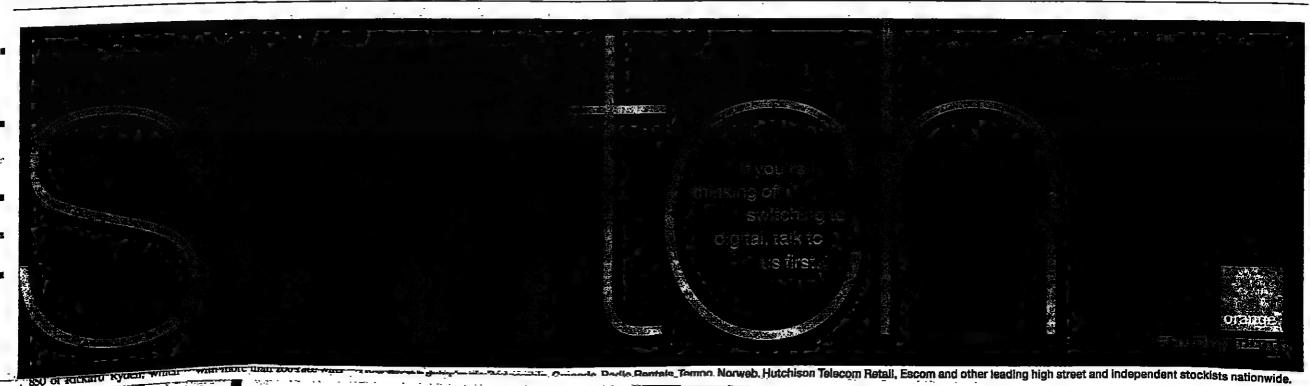
without much warning. Ex-

perts believe that over-the-

counter drugs such as cold

treatments, cough medicines

and hay fever cures are



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Rearch also revealed older drivers report less

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AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

O LONDON A12 Eastern Avenue, Wanstead. Construction of M11 link road continues, reduced to a single lane eastbound between

the Redbridge roundabout and High Street. A3 London Bridge. Major road-works are restricting the north-bound carriageway to one

A41 Finchley Road, Camden. Major resurfacing between For-tune Green Road and Frognall Lane causing long delays in both directions

A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major road-works continue over the Lea

valley viaduct. A406 North Circular Road, East Finchley, North Circular Road reduced to one lane at various locations between the A1
Falloden Way and Colney
Hatch flyover. A roundabout
has been installed at the Finchley High Road junction.

o SOUTH-EAST Mt Bedfordshire. Lane closures northbound, between junctions 10 and 12.

A509 Buckinghamshire. Major roadworks on the Welling-borough Road in Olney, at junction with Levendon Road. A35 Hampshire. Lane closures are in place eastbound for roadworks in Southampton between the Rushington round-about and Redbridge flyover. A41 Herdordshire, Roadworks

on the North Western Avenue in Watford, just north of the Dome roundebout. A249 Kent. Major works at the Stockbury roundabout west of Sittingbourne cause lengthy hold-ups between the M2 and

Kingsferry Bridge. A3 Surrey. Daytime lane closures in both directions between Compton and Thursley. M25 Surrey. Two sections of widening work, with lane closures and contraflows, tween junctions 6/8 and 9/10.

Ø SOUTH-WEST M4/M5 Avon, Work on second Severn crossing continues. with restrictions around the Almondsbury & Aust inter-changes and also on the M5

around junction 18. A4 Avon. Occasional temporary lights in place for road-works in Salford at Junction with Bath Road and Manor Road, affecting traffic in both

M5 Bristol. Lane closures in both directions between junc-tions 17 and 20 for strengthening of the Aronmouth bridge.

A381 Devor. Long-term roadworks continue in Teignmouth between Salcombe Dip and Inverteign Drive with occa-sional tempt far lights.

temporary lights u. Southampton Road in Cosham, near Allaway Avenue. M5 Somerset. Contraffow at junction 23 for major roadworks with southbound entry

slip road closed. A350 Wiltshire. Lane closures in both directions between Chippenham and junction 17 of

the M4 cause delays to traffic in both directions.

O MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA A605 Cambridgeshire, east of

Coates, resurfacing and repairs between Gravel House and Goosetree with 20mph limit. A1075 Noriolk, Shipham, Temporary lights between Dereham and Watton, with 30mph limit. A6 Leicestershire Major road-

works and contraffow at Lockington, between junction 24 of M1 and Sawley Island. A14 Northamptonshire. Delays likely just east of the A605 junction at Thrapston due to mprovement works on the

M1 Nottinghamshire. Lane closures northbound approaching junction 28, the junction for the A52, for barrier repairs.

M6 Staffordshire. North and

southbound entry slip roads on to motorway closed at junction 11 while work is carried out on A460. Diversions are

A4041 West Midlands. Contraflow on Newton Road at Great Barr in Birmingham. ONORTH

M6 Cheshire. Widening work continues between junctions 20 and 21. M62 Cheshire. Westbound link

road to M6 (junction 10) down to a single lane as roadworks continue at Thelwall. A5063 Greater Manchester. Major roadworks and lane closures on Trafford Road near unction with Pomona Strand. A610 Greater Manchester, West Gorton, Pottery Lane closed near railway station as major roadworks continue.

A630 South Yorkshire. Major

roadworks and contraflow on the Rotherway at Canklow, between junction 33 of the M1 A6023 South Yorkshire. Low

Road, Conisbrough closed at junction with Sheffield Road. A167M Tyneside. Northbound lane closures on the Newcastle central motorway near Jesmond Road interchange. M1 West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow at end of motor-

D WALES A550 North Wales, Narrow lanes and 40mph limit for construction of interchange. One lane closed southbound during the week batween 9.30am and 3.30pm, and on Saturdays between 9.30am and 1.00pm.

way at junction 47.

M4 South-east Wales. Work continues in connection with second Severn crossing ben junctions 22 and 24 A547 North-west Wales. Bridge repairs with temporary lights near A55 junction at Llandudno

M4 South-west Wales. Roadworks on roundabout at junction 47. Expect queues back on to the motorway exit alio roads.

A483 South West Wales.

Contraflow and lane closures
on Fabian Way. Swansea. from Elba Cresent to junction with the Earlswood lights. A48 South-west Wales. Con-

proaches to Wychtree roundabout at Morriston.

O SCOTLAND A8 Edinburgh. Major road-works affetcing all approaches to the Maybury roundabout.

M8 Glasgow, Lane restrictions westbound at junction 15 with carriageway down to three A1 Lothian. Roadworks in both directions just west of Bankton

roundabout. M8 North Lanarkshire. Major roadworks in both directions between junctions 5 and 6. M90 Perth and Kinross. Major roadworks at junction 10 with lane closures in

directions. A749 Dalmamock Bridge. Glasgow closed southbound.

It's a single track with blind bends, cows, sheep and mud; the speed limit is 60mph, the same as for an A road

When accidents occur on the quiet

Three miles north of my house is a motorway, one mile south is an A road. Neither of these stretches of tarmac holds any fears for me: both are straight and well-maintained.

But the route to either main road is single track. There are blind bends: sheep, cows, backpackers, farmers, dogs, cars and pheasants are among the hazards. Mud. spread by tractors and cows (mad and sane), provides in winter a surface that would test Torvill and Dean.

In a dozen spots within a mile of my house an oncoming car is impossible to see until it is 20 metres away (that's around 60ft in old money). Yet there is no law to stop me driving at 60 miles an hour. The limit on the wide, straight A road? Exactly the

Rural roads are the most dangerous in Britain. The Department of Transport does not keep statistics for accidents on rural roads specifically. but in its figures for accidents on non-built up roads, the section "other roads" gives 12,375 accidents in 1994

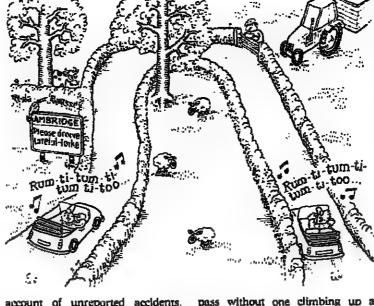




Peter Barnard

roads. There were 33.818 accidents on non built-up A roads, but of course these carry much higher volumes of traffic

You may well think that the key problem is death on the roads, and that in this respect motorways are a much worse problem. You would be mistaken: in 1994, there were 1,990 deaths on A roads, 455 on B roads and 746 on "other roads". Motorway crashes killed L35 people.



account of unreported accidents. Most of those on rural roads do not involve injury: I can recall at least six such in my area in the past year or so. Allowing for the vast difference in traffic volume, this means that my three-mile journey to the M4 is infinitely more dangerous than any-

thing I face when I reach it. So it is plainly nonsensical to have a 70mph limit on a three-lane motorway and only 10mph less on roads where it is impossible for two cars to

pass without one climbing up a hedge or bumping along a muddy verge. Why is nothing done?
The reason is publicity and per-

ception. Spectacular crashes make the television news and bring out publicity-seeking MPs. "Something must be done" is their clarion call and often, something is. Something daft, usualiv.

"Volvo Estate Hits Tractor" is not the stuff of national publicity, even if someone dies. Yet there are enough

idiots charging about in the countryside to cause the carnage that the statistics reflect. All too often these accidents bring no prosecution because the police would have to show that a person was driving dangerously or carelessly. Travelling at 58mph on a single-track road is not of itself an offence. Much as I am anti-legislation, an

offence is what it ought to be. The Government could easily amend the Road Traffic Act on one sheet of A4 to impose a speed limit on singletrack rural roads.

What should this limit be? I have spent several hours this week cruising around country lanes and reckon 35mph is about right. Even at this speed the stopping distance is about 95ft, too far to avoid an encounter on a blind bend, but let's not take this matter to the point where we would be overtaken by people walking their

dogs.
You will now tell me that such a limit cannot be enforced, and you are right. But I retain a touching faith that most people take notice of speed limits, if only to the extent that they do not exceed them by very much. So I shall send a copy of these

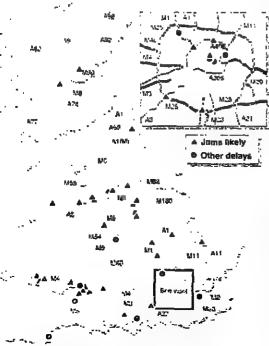
thoughts to Richard Needham, my own MP, a wonderful man who would not do anything just for publicity. For one thing, he is not standing at the next election. I trust that his farewell gift to the nation will be drafted on one sheet of A4.

Left to reflect on the cost



"On both occasions, the mirrors were 95 per cent perfect with a tiny area damaged, but I had to replace them completely," says Roger Evans

MAJOR ROADWORKS



oger Evans has suffered the fate of most motorists and clipped his wing mirrors a couple of times but, unlike the majority of drivers, he has been left with a bill for £450. Evans drives an E-class Mercedes and the company is:

unable to replace parts of a wing mirror. It insists on replacing the entire motorised and heated mirror, however slight the damage, at a cost of £156.57 plus VAT and labour. "It is a ludicrous waste of resources and money that the

tiny broken part cannot be repaired or replaced and the whole wine mirror assembly has to be thrown away " says. Evans, a London chartered surveyor. While his story highlights a

scandalous element of the motor parts business. David Price has a more expensive problem with Mercedes; two successive new C200s have rusted badiy in the boot Their unhappy motoring experiences are among the

scores pourine into Car 96

after we opened our Cars from

Hell file last month and follow other nightmare problems with luxury cars, including a BMW, a Porsche and several Volkswagens, "People have higher expectations from these ears and, quite rightly, are quick to complain when things go wrong," says David Walls er, a senior trading standards

Evans admits that his complaint is more irritating than appalling, but it will find sympathy with thousands of others who have been forced to replace expensive parts when a minor repair should have sufficed.

"The first time the mirror was damaged in a car park and I had to pay \$225 to replace it. I bit the bullet." he says. "But the second time I decided to point out how stupid and wasteful this is. On both occasions. I was left with wing mirrors which were 95 per cent perfect with a may area damaged, but had to replace them completely." The damage had occurred

when the mirrors on his E320

Cabriolet had been pushed

Tony Dawe on holes in the

Mercedes myth



forwards instead of backwards, which normally happens in a collision.

During a lengthy corres-pondence with Mercedes-Benz, Evans was told: "Owing to the aerodynamics of the car and the need to ensure that wind noise is not created by these mirrors at speed, it has not been possible for our designers to permit them to deflect towards the front of the car to any great extent." David Regnard, UK cus-

tomer services manager, added that the matter had been raised with Mercedes-Benz HQ in Stuttgart but "they are unable to provide us with a solution for the problem or make the damaged parts available separately rather than as a complete unit."

David Price of Llantwit Major. South Glamorgan. wants more than a free wing mirror after his problems. "I hought a new C-class Mercedes when it first came out in October 1993 but the boot soon became a complete rust bucket and I sold it back to the dealer in January last year," he says. "I was assured the same problem would not occur twice, and on February I last year paid £25,000 plus finance for a new C200 Elegance. It, 100, has rusted badly and you can see daylight

through the boot area." He consulted trading standards officers and called for an RAC inspection, which report-

what surprised that a vehicle of this build quality and age should have numerous areas of scam bleed and surface corrosion evident in the boot

rice says: "This saga of two new rusting Cclass cars sold to the same person over a period of two years explodes the great Mercedes 'myth' that their cars are the most wellbuilt in the world. The company has offered to repair the damage under warranty, but I would prefer to trade the car back and spend more money on an E-class in the hope that those models do not rust."

The company has declined to agree to a deal. A spokesman said: "It is most unusual for this type of problem to occur on our vehicles. In Mr Price's case, we have been able to identify the source of the problem as water leaking into the boot via the offside light unit area and can rectify it to bring the vehicle back to factory standard condition."

Continued from page I (4 per cent), antihistamines (2 per cent) and amphetamines (1 per cent). While many of the drugpositive motorists involved in

accidents are also found to be over the alcohol limit, there is a consensus among pharmacology experts that the use of banned narcotics and some medication drugs when driving makes involvement in an accident twice as likely," the survey concluded.

Conrad King, consultant psychologist to the RAC, says: "Drugs have a two-fold effect on anyone who uses them. It can be both physiological and psychological. Either of them can impair the user's ability to

"With stimulant-based drugs, motorists would actu-ally feel they were better drivers while under the influence, but they would become much more likely to drive With depressant-based drugs they would lose any real anxiety about dangers on the mad and would not be able to react quickly to changing conditions. With hallucinogenic drugs reaction times will be altered and ability to operate the vehicle will be come erratic.

"Drug drivers may feel like better drivers in their mind but in reality their ability can be fatally flawed."

"Two years ago 678,500 breathalyser tests were carried out in England and Wales, of which 14 per cent were found to be positive. in the same year 1,000 drug tests were carried out following negative breath tests - and in 90 per cent of cases proved positive.

Some American known to have drug problems use a "urine bus" in which drivers can be tested for a variety of substances after random stops. But legislation would be required before roadside screening could be introduced here. With existing methods it can be several days before the result is known if tests are to be carried out for more than one substance.

The RAC and AA support attempts to agree a Europewide, three-tier warning sys-tem for medical drugs so that consumers are clear which drugs pose a driving hazard. The scheme would adopt a first stage to alert patients which drugs could cause mild side effects, especially if taken in conjunction with alcohol: a second stage for drugs that should be avoided before driving; and a third stage for drugs dangerous to take before driving and should carry a drug-drive penalty.

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While others talk about bodywork style and engine power, Helen Mound sends three reports from the interior

Fabrications of designing women

The seat covers for one in four cars in Western Europe were conceived

in Derbyshire

mechanical matters with the salesman, the woman may well be looking at the new car's seats and wondering who chose the fabric and colour scheme: in many cases, it was another woman.

Based in Somercotes, Derbyshire, Guilford Europe produces fabrics for seating, headlining, door panels, sun visors and even parcel shelves. One in four Western European cars is trimmed with their fabrics.

"Interior fabric needs to echo the image of the car. In a concept car that means something futuristic, perhaps bold, but not alien, because it has to be welcoming," says Rita Hicklin, who, with Cathy Bass, Linda Fahy, Helen Scott, Alison Slater, Nikki Downes and Beatrice Frishkorn make up not only Britain's most popular automotive textile design team but also the only all-female one.
"We haven't found a male designer good enough," laughs Ms Hicklin. Their portfolio includes designs for Ford, Rover, Nissan, Toyota and Skoda.

"Each client has a different way of finding their ideal design for a new car," adds Ms Hicklin. "Some have a clear idea of colours and patterns, others let us guide them with new designs. The key element is listening to the clients' triggers in the image profile, such as young, profes-

Designing a new car seat fabric looks like a lot of fun. The designers take inspiration from just about anything; You can see a pattern in most things you look at - wrapping paper, photographs, even clouds. We put a small portion of our pattern idea on paper and scan it into a computer then we can enlarge shapes, reverse patterns, re-

peat designs several times." Like the majority of automotive design, auto textile



designing is mostly computer based. The team's most recent addition, Nikki Downes, who joined Guilford straight from college, can vaguely recall what pencils and paper are for: "We did a little design work on paper at college." Using weaving software the

designers decide which weave to use -- tricot, flat woven, pile circular knit or pile woven programme in the number of yarns and colours, and the computer takes care of the rest. A disc carries the information from computer to loom which then produces 20 metres of the designer's new sample. Last year the team produced as many as 2,580

Meanwhile, Guilford's laboratory tests new weaves and yarms for quality. Textile tests include an abrasion test involving a large wheel that rubs the fabric 50,000 times to check for wear; an age test under harsh light; a stretch and set test to ensure the fabric can cope with the tension when it's put on the seats; and a weight-bearing test to see what it can tolerate

before tearing.
Once a fabric has passed the designers' and the technicians' approval, the team starts work on an annual presentation of colours and patterns which they show to all major European car

"We've developed a reputation for being quite quirky Helen Scott's responsibility to put together this year's presentation boards.

ast year we used films as themes. This year it's restaurants. Tea at The Ritz', 'lce-cream pariour' and 'Oyster bar'. For each theme we make up two collages depicting the colours and images it inspires. Traditionally, we use an autumn palette. Winter is too dull and spring too washed-out for car interiors, and a bold summer palette is only suitable for a few

hatchbacks and concept cars." The Tea at The Ritz presenfor executive and family cars, ice-cream pariour colours are for youthful hatchbacks and the Oyster bar displays all the new colours and designs for concept cars. This is the first vear the designers have moved away from bright colours for concept cars and are using soft pastel shades.

We take most of our inspiration from the fashion industry, which dictates colour trends, but we're also influenced by the fabrics that are lours using printed patterns."

Projects for the team usualin fashion," says Ms Hicklin.

woven fabrics are the most popular choice in Europe, while American motorists prefer velours, which is advantageous. "Flat woven gives us greater scope for pattern. which is what Europeans are demanding. A pattern in a high pile fabric such as velour is very costly, but US tastes are conservative and they

Research shows that flat

Ms Hicklin. Tastes may change, howver, in the next few years with a new technology for printed velours: "We hope to have a lot more freedom to be creative with designs on ve-

prefer plain velours," explains

ly span a four-year period: "We're working on interiors that won't be seen until the next millennium, but that of time to work on designs. Clients normally expect samples within three weeks, so we have to move fast, finding the correct yarns, dyes and weaves to suit the suggested

Like most creative types, the designers enjoy seeing their work on the streets. "I remember when I saw my first design in a car, I wanted to stop the driver and take a closer look," recalls Cathy Bass. "It's strange because we design around 10 samples for one derivative of a new car

designs."

a choice we don't know how it four years later you suddenly ordinated with something else. It's quite exciting."

Fifteen years ago car manufacturers offered two interiors, cloth or plastic; now the choice is vast. Interior design plays a major part in the success of a new car. As Ms Hicklin puts in "Motorists and manufacturers are demanding greater individuality, but aerodynamic properties are forcing new cars to look the same, so distinctive designs can only come from the interior, which is where we come in."

Seating problem 1: expert analysis of what's wrong

against employers who provide company cars with seats that cause back problems is set to change the way fleet cars are

A growing number of company car owners now consider a comfortable driver's seat more important than the usual tempting trim levels. In the past 12 months at least ten cases against employers have been brought to court by company car drivers who suffer severe back problems caused by long hours in poor

car seats. Mark Porter, Vehicle Ergonomist at Loughborough University, isn't surprised that motorists are turning on their employers: "Any company car driver who spends more than two hours a day behind the wheel should be provided with a decent car seat that ensures a good posture, otherwise they will develop back trouble, which ultimately is the employer's

problem. Research at the university has shown that people who spend more than 21 hours a week in a car or drive 25,000 miles annually are at risk of serious lower back problems and likely to be absent from work for up to 50 days a year. Even those who drive less than 10 hours a week or cover just 5,000 miles annually will probably be absent up to a week each year recovering

from back pain.

If fleet buyers think they can't afford to invest in cars with better seats, they should look at what their company is losing in absenteeism for back problems," says Profes-

sor Porter. The research also revealed that older drivers report less discomfort than younger motorists, which is thought to relate to the more expensive cars - with better seats and greater adjustment features that older drivers general-



Mark Porter: "Seats developed for comfort have been badly altered to look more elegant"

good seat should ensure a

nust feel comfortable."

good posture, rather than

His research has revealed

not all seats that feel uncom-

fortable initially are the cul-

prits, but some that feel great

at first can eventually cause

develop, so it's important

drivers who spend a lot of

time behind the wheel take a

test drive that lasts at least

in many cases however,

motorists don't get a say in

the choice of their company

car let alone a test drive,

which is why Professor Por-

ter expects to see an increase

two hours," he says.

eve found some

aches and pains

take 75 minutes to

Lawsuits that come in fleets

The Vehicle Ergonomics Group at Loughborough University has researched car seating since 1981 and has evaluated more than 100 cars. When it comes to postural comfort and how car seats can be made to suit motorists of all shapes and sizes, Professor Porter knows all there is to know. Standing 6ft 3ins, he has his own problems finding a car that's suitable. Tve had the Porsche 911; which is great for long-legged people, since

He has thought of compil-ing a list of models with good and bad seats, so that motorists can avoid the cars that will result in back trouble and consider those that would suit their stature: "A

850 OF Rickard Ryocal, winer with more distributed with Times

in law suits against employ-ers who put drivers in poor seats. He recommends legis lation to protect people who drive as part of their job. "For years ergonomics in the office has been taken

seriously. Companies under-stand that a carefully planned workstation is important for staff productivity and comfort. Now they need to learn the same is true for those workers who spend the majority of their time in the

employers had to provide each driver with a vehicle suitable for their individual needs as well as the demands of the job.

"It's still common to find seats being sketched by designers who have no knowledge of anatomy, physiology or the basic principles of seating and these sketches sometimes influence the final result. I've seen seats we've developed for high levels of comfort hadly altered just to

At ease with your new car

• ARE YOU going to be sitting comfortably however long the journey - in that gleaming some of the points to check when seeking the ergonomically correct.

ENSURE you can get a good posture in the consider how comfortable

■ LOOK FOR seals with a high degree of adjustability. Seet adjustments help to ensure your initial optimum posture and chance it If necessary during a long

 CHECK what sort of lumber supports are provided. Your back will be your most

 TEST the positions of gearstick and control buttons. Make sure you can sit in a position that means you can reach them without undue

 IF YOU are going to travel long distances or spend more than four hours a day in a car, try to arrange a test drive that lasts at least 75 minutes.

 DON'T tolerate any inconveniences such as offset pedals or a high steering wheel.

• FINALLY, remember that there will be times when you won't be the only one sitting in the car for hours on end. Take the whole family on a test drive to ensure that it sults everybody.

Seating problem 2: pain of a victim



Joe Cooke: "Companies wouldn't dare force a secretary to sit in a poor seat"

Miles of discomfort

oe Cooke, a sales engi-neer for Shell, is one company car driver who is debating the importance of a good car seat with his

"I have to choose a Citroën Xantia, Ford Mondeo or Rover 400, but they all agitate my back," he says. "My old Rover 600 isn't on the list any more, but it gives me backache anyway be-cause the pedals feel offset." Mr Cooke is regularly

behind the wheel four or five hours a day, and his back has become so painful that he often spends whole days recovering from long drives. "I've done 100,000 miles in this Rover, that's an awful lot of sitting badly, and I'm afraid a new car will give me

more problems." He decided to test drive all the cars that came within the company's budget and found his ideal car seat in the Alfa Romeo 155. "It gave me support in all the right places, the foam is a comfortable density and it has an effective lumbar adjuster." But he hasn't managed to convince his company that his back is a more important matter than their mass fleet purchases from Citroen, Ford or Rover.

"Companies that force their drivers into unsuitable car seats are likely to end up with RSI [repetitive strain injury) type law suits against them. They wouldn't dare force a secretary to sit in a poor seat, so why do it to a

driver?" Mr Cooke's argument with his firm goes further than just looking after his health though: "It goes without saying if companies make their drivers comfortable, they'll be happier and more productive. I know when my back is sore the last thing I feel like doing is

working." Professor Porter comments: "Only if company drivers convince their fleet buyers there's a problem, and they then put pressure on the car manufacturers, will the situation change, Fifteen years ago the motor industry didn't believe safety would be an important issue for car sales, now the same is true of ergonomics.

The problem is that ergonomics is always the last feature to be considered by manufacturers. Car design starts with exterior styling and seat designers have little or no say regarding headroom, legroom or driving package. They have to make the best of what they get. Which means the steering column, pedals and gearknob are put wherever there's space, and the legroom is whatever is

His ambition is to work on a car that is ergonomic-led. "It would be great to produce a car that considers exactly how old, what size and what profession the intended motorist will be, so that the ideal driving position, interior space and adjustable feaSM M3 Cpc Mel Rucing Green/ Light Silver Orey Libr. a/c. Schniber exhaust shortshift. tracker, £32.995 Lappister 01732 486300 / 0860 899033

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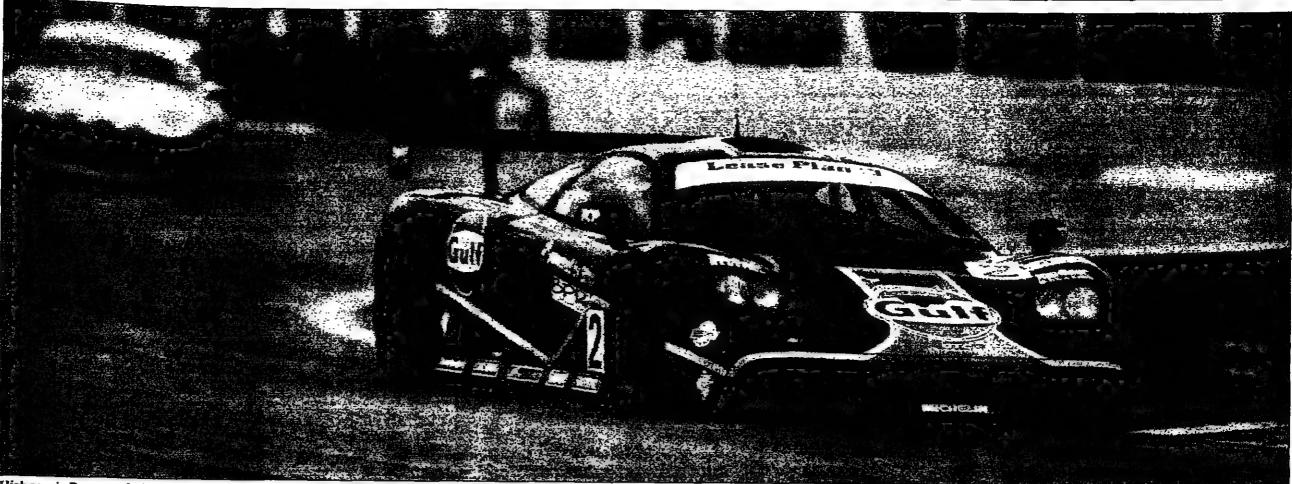
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GIRER





High gear in Provence: the McLaren FI GTR on its way to victory in the first race of the championship season at the Paul Ricard circuit in what is perhaps the only class of racing where a private rather than a factory team can win international honours

Big Mac to go; at high speed

he Big Mac is back — not the beleaguered beefy variety, but one of Britain's most sexy and successful exports. The 1996 McLaren FI GTR is the latest supermodel to step out on the sports car racing catwalk, fresh from the gym, lighter, faster and packing 6064cc of pure BMW VI2

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The winning car from last year has been refined for this vear's clutch of road users and badged as the LM to mark its victory at Le Mans, but McLaren still needed to produce a car to build on last year's coups on the European circuits. This is it: as close to Formula 1: as mortal sports cars can get. The LM offers 636 brake horse power; this car has 667, although new air intake restrictions rein the power in to 630, with maxi-

mum revs at 6,700 rpm. With three rounds of the BPR Global Endurance GT championship gone, McLaren is back where it belongs at the head of the field. The Gulf Racing team achieved a onetwo in last weekend's fourhour round at Spain's Jarama circuit to add to its victory in the first race at the Paul Ricard circuit in France. Another McLaren won the intervening

round at Monza, Italy. That opening round was the 1996 GTR's first proper road test, in the experienced hands of Gulf Racing's James Weaver, 41, and Ray Belim, 45. But it was no occasion for the faint-hearted. The team had just a week to get the car ready while the Ferrari and Porsche teams were buffing their fierc-

est hardware. Endurance racing, with its season including the legendary 24-hours at Le Mans in June is enjoying renewed popularity this year, with the stalwarts Ferrari and Porsche battling it out with McLaren for the honours. It is perhaps the only class of racing where a private rather than a factory team stands a chance of taking international honours. Its folklore, built up since

the days of the Bentley boys, speaks of the smell of the grease, the whiff of benzene and Bollinger and the pain of prolonged battle, dulled only by the promise of victory. But modern motors have made it a lot more businesslike.

When I joined Weaver and Bellm just hours before the first race for their discussion of tactics, the mood was as relaxed and convivial as Sunday tea with the vicar.

Bellm studies the circuit as we might dispassionately contemplate a weekend drive to the seaside. Traffic is the problem here," he says, "with 51 cars on the grid. There will be 30 top-flight drivers. Some of the others are, to put it politely, a liability."

Weaver agrees: This isn't about 20 laps and knocking people off; it's technical, and any minor error can be very costly - there are no easy ways to win. Two of the Porsches I know I can trust: nmiessional drivers allow themselves to be overtaken and not lose time, but an amateur panics and is likely to do something daft to stop you

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Fresh, fast and the stuff of fantasy. Simon Hacker sees (and hears)

the McLaren Fl GTR demonstrate

its powers of endurance on the track

for what is required. At the Signes bend, which finishes the longest straight stretch in the series, they have to lose 60mph in 70 yards. Maximum speed here, says Belim, is about 190mph. Some braking.

Last year's frustrations for Gulf at Le Mans frequently remind them that luck plays a huge role. Perhaps that's why, despite their technological edge, the drivers retain the odd superstitution. Weaver refuses to wear anything but his own self-designed helmet and Bellm has a pair of "winning" gloves he just can't let go of. "Seriously though, when you're sitting in the car. you have to go with your gut feelings," says Weaver, "if you don't want the team's choice of tyre, you don't have them."

Still less is left to luck when it comes to food. From a mobile canteen that spends the year crawling from circuit to

WIN A TRIP TO THE DRAMA OF LE MANS

circuit, Charles and Lucie Skipwith run the catering and hospitality for the entire team. And while it is their responsibility to see that Gulf guests dine in style, the real priority is to the boys in the pits.

The team gets through a massive amount of food they need big portions and they need it now," says Lucie. On the night before the race, the team's success in rebuilding its second car, the 1995 McLaren, damaged that day during practice, owed much to Lucie's cottage pie, served piping hot among the socket sets, at 1.30am. No such indulgence for the drivers though: "It's very important that they are kept on a high-energy diet for 24 hours before the race . . . potatoes, pasta, not much meat - and absolutely no

Enthusiasts will tell you about the cars, about the

alcohol."

PRIVILEGE has promised to fly our winner and

a partner out to Paris, departing Friday, June 14,

where there will be a car for them to drive to the

picturesque town of Le Mans and three-star

THERE ARE tickets to the Grandstand and pits,

plus lunch and dinner at the circuit during the

24-hours of the race and £200 of spending

money. Privilege is also providing three pairs of

tickets to any British GT race, which includes

events at Silverstone and Brands Hatch, for

1 Which famous British manufacturer won four

2 How many seats has a McLaren F1 road car?

Entries to GT La Mans Contest, Car 96, The

Times, 1, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

times in a row at Le Mans, starting in 1927?

3 Who starred in the 1971 film, Le Mans?

Usual rules apply, closing date May 10.

TO ENTER, answer these three questions:

hotel accommodation for three nights.

women, about the excitement of it all, but what they never let you in on is that these cars produce a cacophony of sound loud enough to make your ears bleed. Come to a BPR race and forget your glasses. your picnic hamper but forget your earplugs and you're flirting with total deafness.

At the Signes bend, where every sinew of the cars pulls back to snapping point, the sound hits you like a glass wall. Here you realise the McLaren's secret trump card. The GTR's rump may be designed to do all sorts of clever things with downforce, but it has the physiognomy of a leering gorilla. Steering the nose of an F40 past these deepset flashing red pupils must be too forbidding to contemplate.

vidently it was. After a nudge from behind, Gulf Racing lost its 1995 car, piloted by Frenchman Pierre-Henri Raphanel and Lindsay Owen-Jones, who in his spare time runs French multi-national L'Oreal. But 212 hours into the event, with Relim now at the wheel, the 1996 car grabbed a three-second lead.

It might not sound like much, and given the complications of pit-stop delays, the lead is hardly discernible from the paddock. Throughout the four-hour drama the pit crew show impeccable discipline. punctuated only by feverish bouts of activity as the cars limp in for rubber and oil. Their work area is a carpeted lab. All is kept as it should be under the eye of operations director Michael Cane. His stern professionalism may have earned him the nickname Dr Death, but there is a tinge of affection in the term: everyone agrees that a misplaced air-hose is a capital

At the podium, and after so much slog, comes the big anticlimax. There's not a drop of champagne in sight. The French, I'm told, never allow it at their events. The only real show of emotion comes with

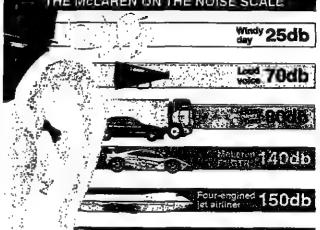
Bellm's decision to throw his team-liveried cap into the crowd. Backstage BPR presents the winning duo with some Provencal glassware; there are no big cash prizes to be won.

In the second round, Gulf was able to field two 1996 GTRs, but a fuel leak prevented the Lindsay Owen-Jones/ Pierre-Fienri Raphanel car from starting and the Bellm/Weaver car was in a challenging third position when it was eliminated after a close encounter with the eventual winner, another privately entered McLaren driven by John Nielsen for the West

racing team. The third round at Monza last weekend really showed the excitement of these races. an early phase of Ferrari dominance giving way to an all-McLaren battle with both Gulf cars initially chasing the Harrods-entered car driven by James Wallace.

Tyre strategy made the difference, with Weaver getting past the Harrods car with just five minutes of the race remaining. In the closing moments Wallace was forced off the track after a collision involving a pursuing Ferrari. which allowed Raphanel to take second place.

As the true professional Weaver, sums up the excitement of endurance racing: You know what the best thing about all this is? You get paid



• FOR ANYONE who has doubts about the acoustic abilities of the unsilenced Mo-Laren GTR, a small boy near Donington has an interesting tale to tell. The incident happened, an insider tells me, when Gulf Racing took the 1995 car to a local Gulf station for a forecourt promotion.

"When they started it up to potential of the car. The sound blast rebounded under the canopy of the forecourt and blew the small boy off his

 Wood's Practical Guide to Noise Control -- something of a bible among environmental health officers - cites 140dB as the noise level you get when "Standing thirty metres from a military jet aircraft at take off. Described in subjective terms as

 McLaren's engineers say that the 1996 GTR produces,

at full flow, 140dB. So if you intend to see it in action this year, he warned. Environmental health officer John Pullin of Stroud District Council told me: "One hundred and forty decibels is on

the threshold of pain - if I

was near this car I wouldn't

like to be without some decent

earplugs." Gulf Racing spokesman Charlie Ricketts told me that because 100dB marks the critical threhold for noise pollution complaints in the UK, test runs on the GTR at Bruntingthorpe had to be

● This car is certainly a chunk louder than the Porsches. In the UK, most circuits like Silverstone are OK, but people are more treehuggy about these things than they used to be - they buy their homes next to circuits

UPDATE

and then complain about the

I f you need advice to judge a fine racing driver, then sign up a novelist, writes Kevin Eason. Tess Stimson, the writer whose book Pole Position is definitely not about grid placings, has dashed into the lead in our celebrity Fl Fantasy Drive Competition.

Her team, Blazing Saddles, seems to have the perfect combination of flair and points-winning consistency. Her top driver was Jean Alesi - not the man to win the world championship perhaps, but the best points scorer because of his ability to overtake, improve his position and

The result, after two grands 1 prix at Brazil and Argentina, was that Alesi was the top driver with 225 points, followed astonishingly by Olivier Panis on 224, then Damon Hill's 223. Damon lost ground for Fl Fantasy drivers because his results were a bit of a foregone conclusion.

Jonathan Palmer, BBC's grand prix commentator, turned out to be a smarty pants by jumping into second place with the safe bets of Hill and Villeneuve plus the brilliance of Rubens Barrichello all coming through for the red, white and blue of his Team Palmer Promosport. Chris Rea, the Northern rock star famous for his Road to Hell hit, clearly knows his Tarmac, jostling into third place.

F1 Fantasy Drive celebrity league update: 1. Tess Stimson: Team Blazing Saddles, 1,290. 2. Jona than Palmer: Team Palmer Promosport, 1,268. 3, Chris Rea: Team RTH (The Road to Hell), 1,239. 4, Louise Aitken-Walker. Team Aitken-Walker, 1.226. 5, Stirling Moss: Team SMART, 1,224. 6, Nick Mason: Ten Tenths, 1218. 7, Sir David Steel: Team Steelers, 1,191. 8, Lord March: Goodwood, 1.182. 9, CAR 96, 1.131. 10, Carol Vorderman: Vorders

Audi makes light of weight penalty

Alan Copps on Frank Biela's flying

start to the Touring Car season

This is the view of Audi's A4 quattro which Frank Biela expects to show to his rivals again in the second round of the British Touring Car Championship at Brands

Hatch tomorrow. Audi, the new boys in one of the most closely-contested race series in the world, made a sensational debut at Donington Park, Derbyshire, on Easter Monday when Biela, who holds the Touring Car World Cup, won both races in the first round.

The Audi overcame the penalty imposed because of its four-wheel-drive as Biela headed home in both 18-lap races more than a second clear of Will Hoy in his Renault Laguna.

John Bintcliffe, from Yorkshire, who was recruited to the Audi team after winning the Ford Fiesta championship last year, finished sixth in the first race and fourth in the second, a confidence-boosting result after a spectacular practice crash last month. The Volvo 350 of Rickard Rydell, which

took pole position in the first race spun out spectacularly on the first lap but managed third place in the second race.

Biela, who had been careful pre-season not to overstate Audi's chances, was delighted with his win. "I'm optimistic about Brands, too. The circuit's not too difficult and our car works well there," he said.

The fortunes of the Audi team will be followed throughout the season in Car 96. Among the spectators at Brands Hatch will be the winners of our competition in the April 6 edition. Paul Morgan of Wheatley. Oxfordshire, and a guest will be given VIP treatment at Audi Sport's hospitality base and will also receive Audi Sport watches and badges. Ten runners-up will get Audi Sport watches,

flasks and badges. The winners were chosen from more than 250 entrants. The correct answers were I) John Cleland is the current BTCC champion; 2) Ford is the most successful BTCC team,



Follow my leader: the A4 quattro looks for another date with victory at Brands Hatch

since it first entered the series: 3) The logo used on all Audi's four-wheel-drive cars is

Cleland, incidentally, struggled with the new Vauxhall Vectra but eventually finished fifth in the first race and sixth in the second at Donington.

including those from the BMW and Honda teams, who will be out to provide stiffer compension for the Audis at Brands Hatch.

After the Donington race Biela has 31 points, Hoy 24. Kelvin Burt (Volvo) 14 and Binteliffe 13. In the manufacwith more than 200 race wins. He is one of a group of drivers, turers' championship. Audi

There will be further competitions during the season in Car 96, with prizes including places on Audi's safety and performance driving schools both in Britain and at the Nurburging Grand Prix cir-

cuit in Germany.

has 30 points, Renault 24,

Volvo 20 and Vauxhall 16.

Fl Fantasy Drive update

each of the drivers in our competition after the Brazilian and Argentinian grands prix as well as the leaderboard showing the position, number of points to date, team name, and the name of the iantasy team manager. TOTAL FARTASY POWERS AFTER AROUNT/MAIL OF

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12 J Herburt	148
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13 M Salo	165
14 P Larny	147
16 P Ointz	156
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Brown Bear Recing Me J E Mathe Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the Ireland readers should call 004 499 020 0501). Remember to have your 10-digit PIN number handy when you call. The line currently carries all positions after the Brazilian and Argentinian Grands

Prix and will be updated again on Tuesday April 30. CALL 0891-774 734 24HRS

Change your selections

You can change up to four of your drivers on our transfer line below which is open 24 hours a day (Republic of Ireland 004 499 010 0332). Only one call is permitted in the present transfer period otherwise your transfers will be invalid. If you made a transfer last week you cannot make another call this week. Transfers must result in a team comprising one driver from each of the eight groups.

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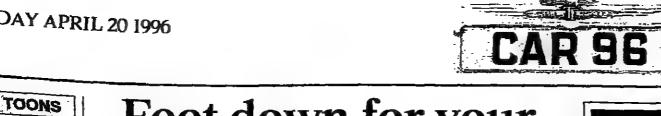
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FROM JCT

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Foot down for your last chance to prove your driving skills

than 80 companies are lining up on the starting grid for The Times-Lease Plan Company Car driver of the Year competition - the biggest-ever entry from company motorists bidding for the most prestigious title in industry for drivers who spend their work-

ing time at the wheel. Entries have arrived from vets, computer engineers, insurance agents, salesmen and women, huilders, telephone engineers, brewery representatives and lawyers who will make up teams at the six regional heats. And drivers come from companies with as few as three cars in the fleet up to the 1,500 vehicles run by Bayer, the international phar-

maceunicals group. But every driver will be equal when they get to the heats, no matter the size of company they come from. All will be expected to complete the same tests and drive the same car, our test model from Nissan, the new Almera 1.6.

Vahid Daemi, Lease Plan's managing director, says: "The strength and quality of the entry reflects the interest company drivers now have in improving their skills and salety. This competition is one of the few opportunities where drivers can - free of any charge - get into a car with top instructors and discover how good, or bad, they are at

"We are looking forward to fantastic contest and some fantastic fun, because every driver will thoroughly enjoy the heats, win or lose."

The closing date is now April 24 (not 17, as shown on form), to allow one last chance for those who might have missed earlier application

If you want to join our line-

More companies

than ever have

entered our top

driver contest, but, says Kevin Eason,

there's still time



Car Driver of the Year, Lease Plan, Thames Side, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 ITY.

Drivers will test themselves in the heat of motoring battle while we try to find the top company car driver in Britain. Chris Howell, managing director of DriveTech, whose instructors will do the examining at regional heats, expects standards to be higher than ever this year.

hat has become clear during the life of this competition is that drivers do want to improve their abilities." he says. "Clearly, any company would train one of its workers to use a computer or a lathe; why then do they not train staff who have to drive as an often major part of their working day?

"Company motorists obvi-

they are driving, and many want to be as good as they can be. This competition gives an insight into what is required of a very good driver.

Our 250 or so drivers will have to demonstrate they understand the theory by answering questions on the Highway Code, being able to carry out a simple mechanical check on the car before they set off and then performing on the road with a DriveTech instructor at their side.

Although the examination will be tough, entrants will effectively be getting a free lessons from one of Britain's top driver training schools.

eat winners will go on to the final at Silverstone, home Grand Prix, where speed will be added to skill under the guidance of the Silverstone Driving Centre. Finalists will go out on a road course but will also have to show they can handle the Almera on fast stretches of the circuit.

Each finalist will be presented with a commemorative plaque by Steven Norris, the minister for road safety, at a special dinner that evening, while the winner not only gets the title of Britain's best company car driver but also the top prize of a continental touring holiday in a car provided by Lease Plan.

Vahid Daemi adds: "It is a great prize, but I suspect that the accolade will mean much more to the drivers who have entered. This is a serious competition dedicated to improving the standards of driving among people who are in effect professional drivers. Being a better driver will mean an easier - and cheaper - maintenance life for the car. lower costs for their companies and a better chance of survival for the drivers themselves, which is ultimately

ENTRY FORM ABOUT YOUR COMPANY... . Fax number: Nature of business: Number of employees: Number of company cars: Position: .. NOMINATED DRIVERS ... Poice on Licence max 31 2 3 Please select your first and second choice location/date of regional heat (indicate 1 or 2 in box): Friday, 3 May Friday, 10 May Maidstone, Kent Oxford

Please ensure that entrant and nominated drivers are available for both first and second choice dates and for Silverstone on Friday, 21 June. Initial qualification may be by telephone questionnaire. Entrants and drivers will be contacted on an individual basis.

Leicester

Elstree, Herts Friday, 24 May

Friday, 7 June

Once you have completed this entry form fax to Lease Plan on 01753 620676

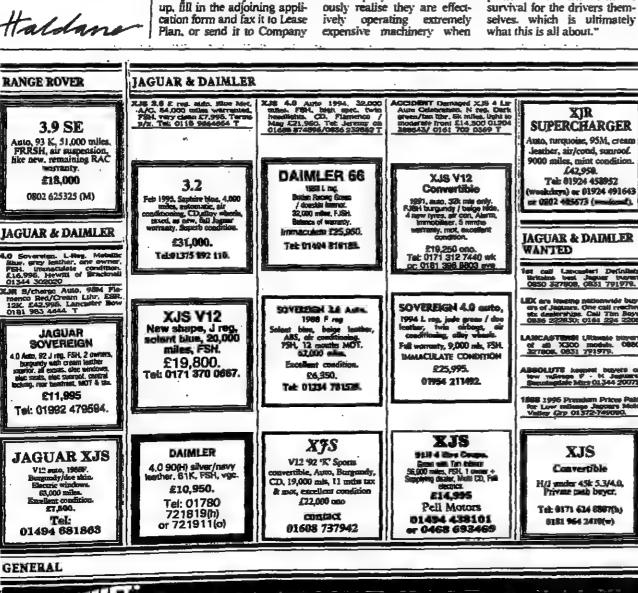
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Wigan, Lancs

Stourport, Hereford Friday, 31 May

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Hilton Holloway investigates Rover's little-known top model

A very British coupé de grace

A sked the identity of Rover's flagship motor, we are all likely to answer "800 Sterling". In fact, for the past four years Rover's price list has been headed by the mysterious 800 coupé, a car few have heard of, let alone seen.

Rover's would-be rivals, BMW and Mercedes, are immensely proud of their upmarket coupes and it is with such cars that reputations are made. So it is bizarre that, after going to no little expense in drawing up a two-door 800. Rover has done so little to publicise the fact.

All that is set to change with the introduction of two new 800 coupé models which could make a mark on the UK's executive car market. For a fiver under £30,000, Rover's most expensive car is now the KVoengined coupe. This powerplant the pinnacle of Rover's awardwinning and much-praised K-series engine range — replaces the old 2.7-litre Honda unit.

The other model, new to Britain but already sold in Europe, is the 197bhp 2.0-litre turbocharged Vitesse. This is a fiver short of £26,000 and therefore something of a bargain on paper. Apparently, the Vitesse coupé has been successful on the Continent, especially in style-conscious Italy.

Whether newly-alerted UK buyers will see the 800 as classically British remains to be seen. I was surprised that the 800 coupé looked so good considering its age and strange gestation. Originally it was destined to wear a Sterling badge and aimed primarily at the US market. Rover stylists, led by Roy Axe, drew up the coupé with export in mind and it's obvious they. succeeded in summing up all that's good about British design for foreign palates.

The top-of-the-range KV6 I drove was a model of good interior practice. Although the instrument binnacle looks dated, it fails to detract from the effect created by classy beige trim, superb leather

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800 coupé KV6 manual: Price: £29,995. Engine: V6, 2.5-litre, 175bhp; 0-60mph 8.2 secs, top speed 135mph, 33.4mpg. 800 coupé Vitesse: Price: £25,995. Bugine: Four-cylinder, 2.0-litre. turbocharged, 197bhp; 0-60mph 7.3 secs, top speed 143mph, 34.9mpg.

ROVER 100

• The smallest models in the Rover range have also been given a facelift. Two new versions, the Knightsbridge and Knightsbridge SE, replace the Illi, IllSi, 115SD and Kensington special editions.

• Prices range from £6.595 for a three-door, 1.1i Knightsbridge to £11,995 for the two-door cabriolet. All Rover 100s now have door beams to protect against side impact and options include a driver's airbag for E245, said to be

the lowest-priced on the market. • There is a choice of three or fivedoor body styles with revised trim

seats and dark green carpeting. Having driven the new KV6 engine before in combination with an automatic box, I was amazed at the difference a manual shift made. It allowed the engine's fine performance to be fully exploited and encouraged swift, and therefore, safe overtaking manoeuvres.

But the 800's ageing dynamics are a problem. The manual box may encourage sporty driving, but the chassis doesn't. It's safe and secure, but rather uninspiring and is occasionally given to the odd loud suspension crash over really poor surfaces. The 800 coupé isn't a super-quiet cruiser either, with mechanical noise and wind whistle from around the pillar-less windows and wing mirrors. However, the really attractive proposi-

is a choice of engines from the LIlitre K-Series to the 1.5-litre diesel. tion looks like being the far more sporting Vitesse coupé. I tried this combination in 800 saloon guise, as right-hand drive coupés are still a couple of months away. The four-cylinder turbocharged engine is extremely muscular and provides a satisfyingly effortless turn of speed. More importantly. Rover's chassis engineers have transformed the 800's undercarriage into a genuinesharp and crisp performer. The

and just five colours, White Dia-

mond, Kingfisher Blue, pearles-cent Amaranth (purple), Nightfire

The SE version has body-col

oured bumpers, a tilting sunroof

and remote central locking. There

Red and Tahiti Blue.

Perhaps the biggest argument for the 900 coupé is its rarity. Drivers who want to stand out in the executive car park, and still buy what is now essentially an all-British car, will be more than pleasantly surprised by the Vitesse.

upshot is a very satisfying drive.

Best of all, the Vitesse coupé will be

£4,000 cheaper than the less power

Serena Sutcliffe tells Andrew Pierce about her first love, an MGB in the Sixties

Vintage years in Paris

nown as the grande dame of the vine, Serena Sutcliffe is a senior director of Sotheby's, former chairman of the Institute of Masters of Wine, a noted broadcaster and wine tasting tutor. Head of the international wine department at the auction house, she was only the second woman to pass the Master of Wine examination.

Next month she will be auctioning in Bond Street a unique set of seven Methuselahs, one of the finest Burgundy lots to have been catalogued. There are only six sets in the world and it is the first one to come to auction. The asking price will be up to £40,000.

Serena, who drinks wine ever day, has a favourite. "If I break down in my car, in an isolated spot, I would like to have a bottle of Louis Roederer Cristal champagne." A snip at £70.

How did you first learn to drive?

When I was 17 with a wonderful calm instructor called Mr Cook. I was a quick learner. But I think my emergency stops shocked him a bit.

I had the quick reactions of someone too young. After he sustained the third major bout of bruising to his forehead he decided I did not have to practise anymore.

What was your first car?

A divine, loveable, grey MGB GT which I bought out of my own hard-won earnings. There is something sensual about virtually lying down to drive. It was a wow in

What car do you drive now.

An Audi 100. My husband, David, and I have been faithful Audi owners for our 19 years of married life. We were not sold by the technology, but by the fact we could fit lots of wine in the back. They are so reliable and responsive to drive.

Do you like driving?

When it is an open road with the proverbial wind in my hair. Inchng along in urban traffic is not my idea of heaven. This happens on the Continent when I go on lecture



What is your most hated car?

absolutely everything out.

It is not the cars, it is more the drivers who own them. Small Renaults and Fiats for example. They are driven at breakneck speed on continental motorways, a menace and rather cheeky as they zoom past straining every nerve.

tours or wine tasting sessions. You

can drive after a tasting — you spit

What is your dream car?

I should say a Range Rover, because you can get 35 cases of wine in one. But the car of my dreams is the Mercedes coupé. When I was at school a German friend of my parents came to fetch me, driving the model of the time. It has been an object of desire ever

What is your worst habit in

Talking to myself or enacting an

opera as it charges to its emotional climax. Fellow drivers, who glance my way, must think I am mad. Wagner's Ring Cycle is very dramatic. Mozart is also distracting because I am always tempted to wave and clap my hands because it is so loyous.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they sit close on my bumper or, worse still, the boot. The French and Italians are the worst. I have to work hard to resist the temptation to stamp on my brakes and blow the consequences. I refrain because I could not bear the paperwork.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

once left London Glyndebourne in a hurry and had to change into evening dress in the car which was stationary in a

country lane. It was a mistake. The car was small and my companion split his trousers in the manoeuvre.

Have you ever had points on vour licence?

No. I learnt my lesson at a young age. I was pulled up by the police, soon after I got my licence, for attempting to overtake in a less than suitable place. It brought me down to earth at a time when I thought that I was immortal.

What do you listen to in the car?

A huge range of music from soothing Haydn String Quarters and fifteenth-century Fayrfax Antiphons and Masses to Melchoir singing Sigmund or Tristan.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Introduce massive penalties for jumping the lights. I'd instal police spies and cameras everywhere.

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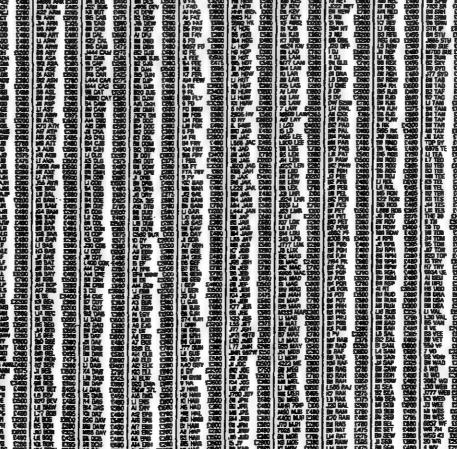


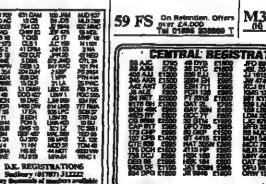
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Definitely a car to have in an emergency



Engine: Four-cylinder. diesel giving 92bhp at

Transmission: Five-speed manual. Front wheel drive. Performance: 0-60mph in 13.8 seconds, average 40mpg. Safety: Anti-lock brakes. front seatbelt tensioners. driver's airbag, reinforced rear seat, high-level third brakelight, three-point belts for all rear passengers. Equipment: Self-levelling

electric windows, electrically heated and adjustable mirrors Security: Infra-red remote central locking/deadlocks and keypad immobiliser. Seating: Height and lumbar support adjustment for driver and central rear armrest.

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Price: £ló,795. Health note: Eleanor is

nat we need." said Or Mike Bailey, "is that." He pointed to my Citroen Xantia turbo-diesel Estate parked a few yards away on a muddy track. It

The patient was my 27-year-old daughter. Eleanor, lying on the edge of a field, swathed in blankets tucked in by a gleanning foil insulation wrap courtesy of the fire brigade. She had been riding her horse when another just ahead had suddenly kicked out, breaking her

leg in two places. Now she was in great pain and losing a lot of blood. It had proved impossible to get the proper ambulance to her over the slippery, potholed track. Essex fire brigade was there with a six-wheel drive Steyr-Daimler-Puch rescue vehicle, but that would have provided a very bumpy ride. However, I had managed to reach the site of the accident in the competent Xantia.

The ambulance crew had given Eleanor a painkiller but it was not sufficient, so Dr Bailey was called from Writtle, near Chelmsford. He is a Basics (British Association of Immediate Care Schemes) doctor. Basics is a voluntary organisation comprising GPs and hospital docprovide back-up for paramedics in particularly difficult situations. They have special training for immediate care work for such things as road - and, in this case, horse - accidents. Their equipment is paid for by local fundraising events.

Dr Bailey arrived in the fire brigade's Steyr and quickly pumped more serious stuff into Eleanor, but she was still in pain: carrying her several hundred yards to the road would be a problem.

started to work, moving her became a possibility — and the Xantia Estate was about to take on a role that could never have been envisaged by its designers. Lowering the car's back seats proved easy enough once the headrests had been lifted out (a fiddly business in those circumstances) and, at 64ins long, 34ins high and 44ins wide. the load space was large and flat enough to take the stretcher with the tailgate open. Dr Bailey kneel-ing alongside her with a bottle of nitrous oxide/oxygen mixture for added pain relief.

So we set off, Eleanor still awake and mumbling: "No wheelspin starts, please." The Xantia has hydra-pneumatic suspension which is adjustable for height. I raised it to increase ground clear-

with steering wheel-mounted controls, electronic sunroof, making a good recovery.

At last, though, the morphine

Broken leg room: Eleanor shows how folding away the seats converts the Xantia's load space for use as a makeshift ambulance ance by 2ins as we moved forward gingerly, driving as carefully and as smoothly as I have ever done in A few minutes later we reached the road and she was transferred

from the makeshift Citroen ambulance to the grown-up one, and was on her way to hospital at last. It may not have been my chosen method of test driving a car, but the Sunday afternoon drama did demonstrate an added and unlikely

dimension of the versatile Xantia's

capabilities; an estate with less

have had a problem clearing some of the humps and bumps on the

aising the Citroën's height is just a matter of pushing a lever positioned between the front seats. It takes only a few seconds for the suspension system of hydraulic fluid and nitrogen gas — which is automatically self-levelling — to pump up to give added ground clearance. In extremis it is possible to raise the suspension by a total of

a shade leisurely, taking 14 seconds is almost rock hard and the car should be driven for only very short distances.

After demonstrating its ambu-lance capability, the Citroën's other attributes rather paled into insig-nificance. But it is a comfortable. competent car. Its sophisticated suspension smoothes out the bumps very effectively at any speed and it is a fine long-distance cruiser, able to average around 40mpg. There is a nine-model choice of Xantia Estates, including

1.8 and 2.0 litre petrol versions.

to reach 60mph; I wanted a more responsive engine such as the direct injection turbo-diesels used by VW and Audi. While the general design is thoroughly practical, the position of its pedals is annoying; the brake is lower than the clutch and has little movement. I also felt the pedals were too close together. The car is good-looking and

offers fine value, with prices starting at £14,110 for the 1.8 litre petrol which in healthcare economics terms is not at all bad for

A Master of all he drives

NICK FALDO bounces straight from his US Masters success and into a Jaguar. The British golfer has signed a five year sponsorship deal with the carmaker which starts with the laguar World Golf Final at Gleneagles in Scotland later this month. How much the association is worth is not known, but experts say Faldo can expect to reel in £5 million in total, thanks to his last-gasp Masters victory.

On a plate

SALES OF personalised registra-tion plates have brought in £200 million for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency since:
1989. Apart from run-of-the-millplates, the DVLA managed to fetch
£200,000 for IA and £235,000 for
KI NGS three years ago.

Promoting sales

POOTBALL fever is doing some body some good in the North East, even if it is not Kevin Keegan. Reg Vardy's specialist car centre on the outskirts of First Division leaders Sunderland has taken orders for-ten new Bentleys in two months. General manager Martin Shaw says that the "feel good" factor has never felt better than now, with Newcastle United, Middlesbrough and now Sunderland to meet in the Premiership next season.

Engine switch

SSANYONG is to stop equipping its 4x4 Musso vehicles with German-built Mercedes engines for versions made under licence in South Korea. The company is to announce that the first models with the new power plants will be 2.9-litre diesels and the 3.2-litre petrol which is put together from kit components supplied

Victoria Day

BEAULIEU, home of the National Motor Museum, throws open its doors on May 5 for a gathering of Victorian vehicles and memorabilia, including fairground entertainment, a traditional Punch and Judy and organ grinder. Horsegines will be among the attractions as part of the celebration of 100 years of the British motor industry.

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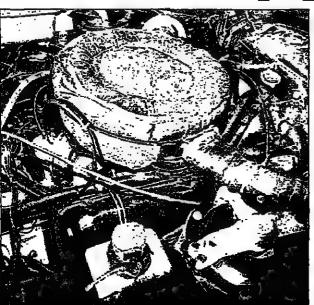
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Vauxhall winner

PETER ARMER of Chorley, Lancashire, will be cheering England on in their first European soccer championship game against Switzerland next month after winning tickets in our competition, sponsored by Vauxhall.

The answers were When did ... GM take over Vauxhall? 1925. Which top goalscorer was replaced by Geoff Hurst in the 1966 World Cup? Jimmy Greaves. Name the 1966 World Cup back four: Bobby Moore, Jack Chariton, George Coben, Ray Wilson, Against which country was Gary Lineker replaced and who was his substitute in the last Euro Championships? .-Sweden; Alan Smith, Which was the last GM Vauxhall Conference team elected to the league? Wyoombe Wanderers.

tors who are on 24-hour standby to sophisticated suspension might 4ins, but stretched to that height it The turbodiesel's performance is an ambulance. Thanks, Citroen. 'There in the paper was a Silver Shadow — fitted with a diesel engine'



Roller diesel: the engine conversion that has doubled the miles per gallon performance of the Silver Shadow

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Simon Grant-Sturgis tells David Thompson about his ultimate in comfortable and stylish towing vehicles

imon Grant-Sturgis is the owner of a very unusual Rolls-Royce - a diesel-powered Silver Shadow. He got it indirectly through his Alan Peters group, which de-livers any car anywhere in the world at the drop of a hat. More often than not though. his work involves domestic deliveries throughout Britain.

After one 400-mile tow-

delivery job, in a "most uncomfortable" Nissan Patrol, Simon was resting his back in the local pub with a few of his car-mad pals. He declared that what he really wanted for these long towing trips was an oldish (and therefore cheapish) Silver Shadow, one of the most comfortable cars he could think of. But to make it

CLONFANISD BY HIS DOCK THE

DUICE OF LEWISTER WON A

economical he would somehow have to fit a diesel engine to improve on the car's original 10-12mpg.
"I looked in the paper the

very next day and there she was, a 1970 Silver Shadow with a diesel engine already fitted. I couldn't believe my luck, so I went to have a look." Fifteen thousand pounds later he parked the gleaming car in

The diesel conversion was done by Devon-based Samurai Motor Components, who import General Motors' 6.2litre V-8 diesels from the United States. This engine's robustness stems from the basic no-nonsense American design, iron cylinder block and heads and fuss-free hydraulic tappets. Power is around 160bhp — somewhat less than the Rolls's original 200 horsepower. This means the diesel works at a relaxed pace and will last a long time. It also bolts directly to General Motors GM400 automatic gearbox, which was originally fitted to the Shadow.

Other requirements are just a couple of remade engine mounts, a shortened propshaft and an altered exhaust. Like all diesel cars, the brakes need assistance from an external pump and, in this case, a Citroen hydraulic unit gives that assistance. There's no road tax to pay either, as the car is more than 25 years old. Over 25 is also what this Roller

now gets in mpg.

Considering the car's age, the panels still have a fit and finish that many a Forth Bridge engineer would be proud of and all the doors still close precisely with a solid "thunk". Better still, there's not a touch of rust anywhere.

Although Simon has sarcas-tically added a "DIESEL" badge on the boot lid. Rolls-Royce never produced a pro-duction diesel engine, though they did experiment with an unreliable rotary diesel engine some years ago. The Shadow itself had an inauspicious start when it was launched in 1966. From the start the car was



Simon Grant-Sturgis and his rare Roller - and he doesn't have to pay road tax

criticised for poor handling and performance (though the ride was good) and it became clear that the design favoured the chauffeur-driven owner rather than the owner-driver.

Jumping from a Fiesta into this Roller certainly takes some getting used to, as the extra 4cwt of the Detroit Diesel makes the handling "interesting". Steering along narrow urban streets is like wrestling in a bath of baby oil it's difficult to get a grip. In some ways it seems, you have to slow down your responses to match the Roller's. One way of achieving this would be to blend into the gentlemen's

club interior and put away two bottles of claret with a couple of hand-rolled Havanas. But it's probably better just to realise that it's not a sports car. the brakes are good, and anyway you're sitting where the chauffeur usually sits.

ertain social niceties of Rolls ownership be-came clear during our day's drive. When we stopped for coffee at a smart hotel, the doorman rushed to open our doors while the small Fiat in front of us was ignored. Oncoming drivers realised we were an oldie and treated us with the same reverence they would save for a great-aunt, politely standing aside to let us pass. Best of all, people actually let us out of tight junctions, seemingly admiring the state-...

ly poise of the Rolls' rear end. Yet it is a working car for. Simon. A Volvo 164 supplements his workaday business trips, but the Silver Shadow completes all his towing jobs and family holdiays with ease a testimony to the strength of the original design and its

workmanship. Has it ever broken down? asked Simon. He replied with a wry grin: "Don't be stupid, a Rolls-Royce never breaks down.

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EDINBURCH 0131 442 2800 CLASCOW 0141 221 6800 Guy Walters reports from the Camel Trophy, a drama of giant bugs and mounting delays

When the going gets tough... we stop

OUR MAN SOMEWHERE IN BORNEO

OFFICIALS are waiting anxiously for contestants in this year's Camel Trophy race. which has proved a spectacular ordeal. Officials from Car 96 are waiting anxiously for the return of their reporter. Guy Walters, who is following the slow progress of the event.

■ The teams are now five days behind schedule, having covered only 20 miles in nearly a week along some of the toughest jungle tracks in the world through Borneo.

Land Rovers are having to be winched across steep ravines and through clinging mud, slowing down their progress to less than a crawl. The convoy was due to reach its final destination in Pontlanak today - but hopes

were fading fast that it would even get near to the finish line, such was the trauma of the journey.

■ Nevertheless, our fearless reporter managed to file his despatch to Car 96. Will Walters make it back to the office on Monday though? Here he tells his story . . .

ntil a short while ago. phy was in danger of becoming a pleasant experience, reminiscent of a Sunday afternoon's drive through some Home Counties woodland. The weather was fine -- hot with a daily downpour - and progress was smooth enough. The spirits of John Leach and William Tapley, the UK's participants, were high, despite the mosquitoes and Leach's viral foot infection. However, the deeper into Borneo the convoy has muddy the event has become.

Ironically, the troubles started on one of the island's most level roads. As the Greek team rounded a bend at 25mph, a brace of speeding Indonesian motorcyclists decided to introduce themselves to the Discovery's bull-bar. The bar remained undented: the Indonesians had a fractured arm, a broken toe and broken leg between them. Neither Leach nor Tapley, who were first on the scene, had seen bone outside skin before.

Luckily for the victims, they had chosen the right vehicle to crash into. The Camel convoy carries two doctors, who have a Defender with

Upmarket automobilia: a 1927

supercharged Type-K Mercedes

small hospital. It was left to Ryk Albertyn to tend to them — a grisly task of administering general anaesthetic on the spot, snapping broken limbs into place and sticking fingers into bloody holes. The local doctor eventually arrived in a clapped-out Jeep, into which he

Walters: still filing

back to what passes for a clinic. It was a busy day for Dr Albertyn Earlier, he had treated an American journalist who had fallen 20ft down a gully, landing on his face and leaving his nose in the middle of his forehead. He is currently undergoing facial reconstruction in Singapore.

slung the victims. They were to

have a literally boneshaking ride

Wednesday saw our arrival in deepest Borneo — the town of Tewah, which felt like Bond Street after a week in the jungle. The locals were astounded and delighted to see 38 Land Rovers drive through their town. The shopkeepers were ecstatic. Every case of Sprite, beer, loaf of bread, bottle of water and packet of cigarettes must have been bought — no doubt at gross mark-ups. The UK and US teams even found time to play volleyhall with some teenagers, the inhabitants waved as we left; we



Britons John Leach, left, and William Tapley were in good spirits, but the deeper into Borneo the convoy travelled the more hellish it became

more accommodating to us than we Bornean tribesmen had marched through, say, Uttoxeter. It will become a day momentous in Tewah's history, to us it was like a stop at an unnaturally friendly service station.

But Tewah was the only chink of light in the cloud. A few kilometres outside, the convoy faced the first of another series of gruelling obstacles, this time a ford followed by a steep, muddy slope. It took well into the night to overcome and we had to pitch camp on a jungle track no wider than the Land Rovers.

That night, the bugs were at their most gargantuan. Tapley and I were woken in the Discovery at 3am by half-a-dozen examples the size of birds and buzzing like motorbikes at full throttle. We tentatively waged war and sprayed

melt the dashboard. We thought we had won, but the next morning, one flew out of Tapley's shirt as he put it on. The locals eat them with rice a sort of bug risotto — but we stuck to our becon and beans boil-in-abag for breakfast.

The next five days were among the most tedious anybody on the convoy has ever spent. In that time, only 30 kilometres were covered. The "road", which is part of the unfinished trans-Borneo highway, is an assortment of collapsed bridges, washed-out surfaces and thickest vegetation. Although the route had been "reccied" by Nick Horne, the event leader, by helicopter, he seriously underestimated the road's condition. One bridge

crossing alone took 24 hours. This involves much work for the

in sun and rain to improve surfaces, winch cars and build bridges. It entails a lot of hanging around, and many of the support drivers, journalists and marshalls merely wilt in the heat, flicking files off their browning legs. Occasionally a journalist will help, but will only regret sacrificing his barely-earned sleep to wallow in glorious mud while it pours.

Many team members are tiring and tempers are shortening. Those once referred to with affection are now referred to in the scatalogical. The German pair hardly speak to each other, and everybody is annoyed with the seeming lack of effort put in by the Swiss and Canary Islanders.

But the real strain has been taken by the vehicles. Despite their hardiness, the overweighted Defenders and Discoverys have suf-

terrain. One Defender has a broken gearbox; one Discovery has a broken half-shaft. Another, which carries the heavy rafting equipment, has two broken half-shafts and a broken steering box. New parts will have to be flown in from Java. The damage to the British car is mild and typical: the right wing and doors have been shunted, the rear bumper was wrenched off ages ago and the since-repaired

bull bar was twisted badly. At the time of writing, last Monday, the convoy is five days behind schedule. Our next town, Tumbung Samba, should have been reached three days ago. At this rate, we shall arrive at Pontianak, our destination 700 kilometres away, on the east coast, by October. Efforts will have to be trebled and it may soon be necessary to let the iournalists take the wheel. I hope

Precautions to avoid

The family wants a day out at a safari park. But I don't fancy driving through herds of wildebeest and lions. What do you

a nervous

breakdown

You could have a lovely time, A but there are a few things you should know and do before venturing out into the jungles of darkest Britain.

I know . . . fit bull bars and buy a shotgun or something. I've read your advice before.

No need to be sarcastic in the surgery. You should give your car a thorough check if you want to avoid the sort of unpleasant experience some people have suffered.

Such as what? It's only a day out at a theme park, after all.

Not for Craig Gordon and Claire Saunders who went to see the Lions of Longleat this week. Their car broke down and then burst into flames while the lions circled their hapless Peugeot 205. Great for the lions waiting for a cooked meal, but not so great for the couple faced between being turned to toast or providing an alternative to a meal of mad cow. Which is why you need advice.

What? On how to run very What Ou now chased by fast when being chased by lions? What help can you offer in

Only the obvious. For in-A stance, make sure your car is not going to break down: check the battery and cooling systems, make sure you have enough petrol when you enter the safari park and ensure the tyres are all in good order. Another thing, retract your radio aerial and make sure nothing is loose around the car. The doctor giggled one day at Woburn watching monkeys systematically strip the vinyl from the roof of a Metro. They just picked up a loose corner and went to work on it.

What do we do if everything does go wrong and we are stuck in the car being circled by hungry lions like that poor couple

You could draw lots in the car and push the least favourite member of the family through the window to distract the lions while you all leg it in the opposite direction ... although the official advice is to blow your born to attract the attention of the park wardens, as Craig and Claire did. Actually, feeding the lions with your mother-in-law or a particularly unpleasant and sticky younger member of the family sounds quite attractive now I think about it. It could be quite entertaining and you could always have a personal sticker put in the rear windscreen of your family hatchback: "I Fed The Lions of Longleat". Quite individual, don't you think?!

You know all that rubbish lying about in the garage? Sotheby's might be interested A TWO-GALLON petrol Tomorrow, three Sotheby's can could cost as little as £5 specialists will be ready to look at today - but an old one piles of car lunk - from lamps to

could be worth £100. Hoarders of rusting oil cans, headlamps or any other motor paraphernalia should clear out their garage and head for the Lakeland Motor Museum at Holker Hall, Cumbria, for a free valuation this weekend as Sotheby's Vintage Vehicle department goes on a motoring version of the Antiques Roadshow.

petrol pumps, enamel advertising signs, a picnic set or even the vehicle itself — in the hope of finding some motoring gems.

Martin Chisholm, head of Sotheby's London car department, says a number of cars forgotten in barns and garages in years past have fetched thousands of pounds at auction; a neglected 1950s Jaguar sold for £12,000 in March.

Jennai Cox on

automobilia sales

double its estimated price."We have discovered so many treasures in the past," he adds. "Little old ladies may have car parts lying around they do not think are of

any value. Înterest in automobilia has grown since the recession when the classic car market sagged and

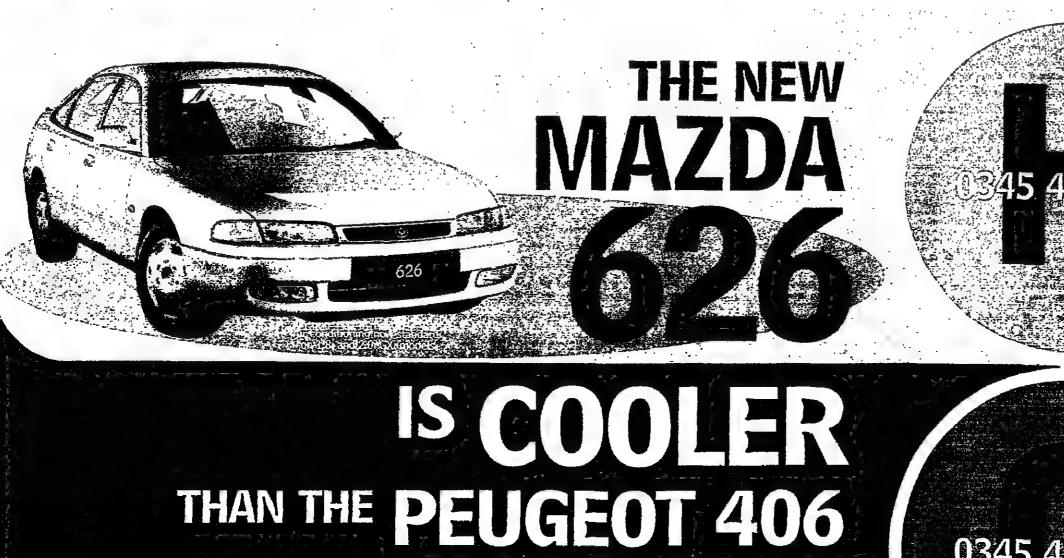
collectors turned their attention to accessories. Also fuelling the market are people who clear out their garages and get rid of old vehicle parts at boot sales, not realising the

value of what they are selling.

Motor accessories sold by the auction house in the past include a pair of Carless Coalite petrol pump globes, which fetched £1,000 each, and a pre-war Cheltenham petrol can that sold for £185.

The motor museum in Cumbria, which features 150 vehicles and a

re-creation of a 1920s garage, was chosen as the first venue of what the auction house hopes will become a countrywide automobilia roadshow; a second is planned at the motor museum in Coventry later this year. The only cost will be entry to the grounds of the museum: £5.50 for adults and £3.30 for children. Valuations will be given between 10:30 and 4:30. Lakleland Motor Museum 01539 558



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BOOKS

What a woman's gotta do



Whitelaw: sharp observations of Olivier and Beckett

■ BILLIE WHITELAW ... chapters are patchy. The prose is almost pedestrian By Billie Whitelaw Sceptre, £7.99

THE Coventry-born actress,

celebrated for her work with Samuel Beckett, writes her own story. Whitelaw begins with her lower-class roots, remembering parental rows. her evacuee years, the early death of her father. She notes key characteristics: her eagerness to please; feeling an outsider as a teenage radio star then amid the buzzing London theatre scene of the 1950s and 1960s. She interweaves personal experiences, notably a harrowing account of her son's neardeath from meningitis, with her professional life which took off with Olivier's new National Theatre.

Whitelaw is not a startling writer, and the opening THE CUNNING MAN

By Robertson Davies

Penguin, £6.99 WHEN Jonathan Hullah, a distinguished though maverick elderly Toronto physician, is questioned about a strange occurrence of 30 years ago, he finds himself looking back with intense curiosity over his own rich yet unsatisfying life. A compelling plot involving a mysterious death, a drunken priest, broken family ties and shifting friendships is woven through with philosophical meditations on every aspect of human experience from art, religion and psychoanalysis to sex and death. An extraordinary, humane and wide-ranging novel which overflows with intellectual energy.



■ WINTERDANCE The Fine Madness of Alaskan Dog Racing By Gary Paulsen

Indigo, £5.99 THE IDITAROD is the famous Alaskan dog race which is run across 1.180 miles of deadly Arctic wastes, from Anchorage westwards to the Bering Sea. In this exhilarating book the Canadian writer Gary Paulsen describes how he took up this challenge, from the training of his first dog team to the moment when he crossed the finishing line. It's not just the account of a hair-raising physical adventure, it's about the extraordinary symbiosis of man and dog necessary for such an enterprise. Absolutely stunning.

THE HOUSE OF BLUE LIGHTS By Joe Roberts
Black Swan, £6.99
A COUPLE of summers ago
Roberts packed his rucksack, took a plane to the
States and rented a branch States and rented a beach house at the tip of the Bolivar Peninsula on the Gulf of

Blue Lights

Mexico. He was charmed by this sleepy corner of the "Lone Star State" and by the characters he encountered there - including a former stripper who once danced for Elvis, a reclusive Miss Havisham-like spinster and an aged country singer who is haunted by her past. This book is a love letter to those he left behind when his summer in the sun came to

Contributors: Kate Bassett, Nicki Household, Hazel Leslie, Jason Cowley

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PEARL EDDY will drive you to distraction. Damn it, why doesn't she see sense? Blind, recently widowed and with four sons to support, Pearl needs all the help she can get as she tries to scrape a meagre living from her farm. Her neighbours are already distrustful of her Quaker ways, and then she riles them further by taking under her wing a collection of lost souls unlikely to endear her to the likes of Simon James and his Royal Order of Redmen.

plicity. This autobiography is not chock-a-bluck with

confessions or exposés. But

Whitelaw does not shy away

from sharp observations,

mixed with fondness, about

Maggie Smith, Olivier and,

She becomes really fasci-

nating in her recall of re-

hearsals with Beckett: from

his minute alterations to the

gruelling practicalities of Not I. including a head-vice

Interim chapters cover

radio, film and countless directors. Whitelaw ends se-

renely contented, describing

her love of the Suffolk coun-

tryside, of her husband Rob-

ert Muller (once a dreaded

theatre critic) and her son,

SUMMER UN THE GITTE DE MENTE

now a stage manager.

indeed, herself.

to stop the shakes.

First, there is a black man, Jerome Prophet: "the Prophet of Doom" as he is known in his trade of bare-knuckle fighting; when he cannot make a living with his fists, he is not above thieving. Caught red-handed in town but its virtue is frank simErica Wagner travels back in time to the Kansas prairies to hear a tale of hardship and heroism with the true ring of the Old West

and attacked, he hides in her house, kills her hen, and still she takes him in, swallowing his story about being a minister ("Mr Prophet." she calls

him) wholesale.

As if that is not bad enough, there is a family of Chinamen too — well, they are Japanese, actually, but this is Kansas and it is 1890. They have come to stake a claim on some land, not knowing that as "orientals" their rights are voided. Someone, as Pearl sees it, has to help the Kishimotos, and it seems that God has it planned

■ ALL GOD'S CHILDREN By Thomas Eidson Michael Joseph, £13.99

that it should be her. But the good folk of Liberty are not in the least impressed by her charity, and before long the Royal Order are planning to teach her a lesson.

It seems inconceivable that Pearl should stick by her resolve and let her farm go to ruin and let her boys be adopted by a wealthy aunt who imagines a better life for them in

back of your neck.

The novel is flawed. It goes on too Boston. It is Eidson's great achieve-

ment to make Pearl's goodness

believable, and to convince us that a

man scarred by and inured to violence would turn away from it at

her bidding. Who would not allow

her defender, Prophet, to use his

talented fists on a drifter hired to rape her? Pearl Eddy, that's who. What can I do to repay you,

ma am? asks the grateful Hank

Meyers, the would-be rapist. "Repay

the Lord," says Pearl, and her

conviction, and Eidson's behind it, is

long, there are one too many miraculous escapes, and the ending — given Eidson's sharp eye for the daily horrors of frontier life — is a bit too good to be true. But these failings shed light on Eidson's origins as a writer: his prairie tales - the first of which, St Agnes Stand, won the W. H. Smith "Thumping Good Read Award" in 1994 - come out of his own family's history on the frontier.

As a boy he grew up listening to his parents' and grandparents' stories of a harder and more vivid life; this, his third novel, maintains the immediacy of a tale told by firelight.

A vivid journey through the imaginative mind of a supreme designer

Blasts from a master

BEWARE WET PAINT: Designs by Alan Fletcher By Jeremy Myerson, Rick Poynor and David Gibbs Phaidon, £39.99

ON THE cover is an anecdote from designer supreme Alan Fletcher: "A marketing man-ager, resentful of being told by the chairman that he had to see me, made his position absolutely clear. 'I know nothing about design, he said, furthermore, I don't want anything to do with it." He was kitted out in a chalkstripe brown suit, a distressed-patterned tie, glasses the colour of stewed glue, sat behind a tacky reproduction antique desk and worked in an office to match. I believed him — and left!"

Hard luck on that marketing manager and his chairman: they missed out on working with one of the most enlightened and prolific designers of the past 35 years.

This book celebrates those years, with hundreds of design solutions which are witty, seemingly simple and refined. The images are de-picted in themed chapters, with commentaries by Jeremy Myerson. There are also four view with the designer.

DAVID DRIVER



Split heir: poster design for the National Portrait Gallery by Alan Fletcher, composed by arranging details from other portraits to make a picture of the Prince of Wales

On a formic acid trip

THIS is not, as idle bookshelfbrowers might imagine, a spin-off from the recentlyended series of television documentaries on insect life, Alien Empire. Then again, it could well serve as the novelisation. Take an ordinary Parisian family and move them into a basement flat inherited from an eccentric uncle who has left them nothing else but a dire warning that they must never, never, never go down to the cellar. And what happens? Of course, they ignore the warning - or at least the family pet does - and the cellar swal-

dry functionaries. There is a black humour about Empire of the Ants that borders on farce, at least as far as the human beings are concerned. But then they are not the protagonists. The real adventure is being lived out on an altogether different plane of existence, literally below their feet.

lows them up, one at a time,

followed by a succession of

policemen, firemen and sun-

Bernard Werber, a science journalist in Paris, has come up with a book that touches on the fringe of science fiction while remaining firmly embedded in terra firma.

Werber has managed something quite extraordinary: he has written a novel about the teeming world of insects, and them. With only minimal conBy Bernard Werber Bantam, £9.99

ition, he creates a universe seen from the point of view of a woodland russet ant, or as the 327th male would see it, an inhabitant of one of the biggest, most important cities in the world, with more than 18 million citizens and dominating an allied federation beyond even Captain Kirk's wildest imaginings.

But Werber's real achieve ment is in conjuring up the challenge of communicating with a genuinely alien intelligence, one that, for instance, might be collectivist rather than individualistic in its sense of identity. He makes the ants' various means of communication — usually by hormonal scents - seem perfectly reasonable, even comprehensible.

With "characters" who "talk" in smells and experience time also in terms of temperature, the key to Werber's book is thinking in more than our usual set of dimensions. To jolt the reader's mind in the right direction he sets a puzzle: "How do you form three equilateral triangles using only six matches?"

This is an off-beat adventure story with an intellectual edge, book I have read this year.

PETER MILLAR

Sweepings from the shop floor

NAME three novels set in a factory. Not including Saturday Night and Sunday Morning. That this question could conceivably feature in a literary quiz says a lot about fiction's usual accounts of working lives, where jobs, if they exist at all, tend to be those of English teachers, English lecturers and - even

more popular — writers.

The Devil's Carousel provides a glaring exception to this depressing rule since al-most all of its action takes place in a car-assembly plant in central Scotland. This actually makes it every bit as historical a work as a swashbuckler about the Jacobite rebellion, and anyone nostalgic for the long-gone days of wildcat strikes, daft managers ineptly dealing with competition from Japan or the very existence of car-assembly plants in central Scotland can

indulge themselves here. The book consists of various scenes from industrial life, such as the cunning sabotage of a car custom-built for one of the corrupt management; the last and eventful day of the plant's security chief; the sorry fate of the worker driven to mental breakdown by a change from his cherished clock number (2001). By far the best of these vignettes describes another sudden descent into personal hell, that of a devout foreman who orders the factory's porn king to clean up his adult-rated walls and is made to realise, in retaliation, the exact nature of his beloved daughter's modelling career.

Although this is a slim work, as if to remind us that car plants once employed thousands, it includes a cast about as large as that of War and Peace. Adding to the confusion, most members of the cast sport a nickname — the bird-watching "Twitcher" Haskins, the alleged scoutBy Jeff Torrington

master "Woggle" Henshaw, "Sputnik" McQuirr (he of the 2001 clock number). Names, nicknames, jobs and stories come and go at such a pace that reading this novel is every bit as bewildering as a first day at work.

The prose is equally hectic, as Jeff Torrington indulges in his love of adjectives, puns,



Torrington: bewildering

patter, odd contractions (such as "to've" and "from'm") and figures of speech. A cough cannot be just a cough: it is a "bronchial outburst"; a wasp is a "striped demon"; the time on an alarm clock supposedly seems as static as "a frozen stellar system".

Four years ago, Torrington won the Whithread Prize for Swing Hammer Swing!, the novel he had been toiling at for years and years. The Devil's Carousel, by contrast, has the air of a carelessly assembled. Friday-afternoon job, al-though it does have some fine moments - and at least it is not set on a university campus in a writer's study.

HARRY RITCHIE



Peter Ackroyd on the sexual enigma of George Bernard Shaw; Derwent May on the journals of Anthony Powell; Ben Macintyre on the first private eye, plus Philip Hensher's Kitchen Venom reviewed

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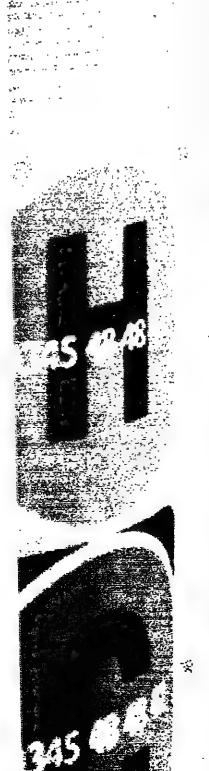
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CHILDREN - -

LONDON Banana Theatre Club Drama workshop every Saturday morning for four to 12 year-olds. Jermyn Street Theatre. Jermyn Street, SWI (0171-287 2875). Today 10am-1pm; £5.

Big Jackie & the Beanstalk Adapted from the fairy tale. Tricycle Theatre. Kilburn High Road, NW6 7JR (0171-328 1000). Today 11.30am & 2pm; £3, concs £2.

The Marsh King's Daughter Adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen tale. For children ages six

Little Angel Marionette Theatre, Dagmar Passage, Cross Street. NI (0171-226 1787). Today/tomorrow 3pm: £6, cones £5.

National Young Playwright Competition. Awards presentation and readings of the winning plays. Unicorn Arts Theatre For Children, Great Newport Street, WC2H 7JB (0171-836 3334). Tomorrow Ham; free.

Stig of the Dump Clive King's story about the life of a boy from the Stone Age. Unicorn Arts Theatre For Children. Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334). Today, Ilam & 2.30pm. Tomorrow, 2.30pm; E5-E8.75,

The Three Billy Goats Gruff & Others Tales Children's favourites. Puppet Theatre Barge, Little Venice, Blomfield Road, W9 (0171-249 6876). Today/tomorrow 3pm: £5.50, cones £5.

Tower Bridge The fascinating history of Tower Bridge. Recommended for the whole



The Star Trek exhibition at Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry has a model of the USS Enterprise

Tower Bridge, SEI (0171-403 3761). Mon-Sun 10am-5.15pm; £5, concs £3.50.

■ REGIONAL BOURNEMOUTH Beauty & The Beast on Ice. With music and lyrics by David Essex and featuring a host of former World skating champions. Pavilion Theatre. Westover Road (01202-297297). Today/tomorrow 2.30pm & 7.30pm; £8.50-£16.50.

CHEPSTOW Dinosaur Roadshow, Interactive entertainment brings

prehistoric times to life in this family exhibition.

Drill Hall, Lower Church Street (01291-625981). Today/tomorrow 11am-5pm;

El, cones 50p, under-18's &

Monmouth Borough Residents free. COLERAINE Cairn Kids Youth Theatre: My The musical version of George Bernard Shaw's classic Pygmalion is

recounted on stage by 100 young actors.
Riverside Theatre,
University Of Coleraine (01265-51388). Today 8pm; £5.

MANCHESTER

Star Trek - The Exhibition Join fellow trekkies in the full-size set of the Star Trek transporter room and get beamed away by the exhibits which include a model of the USS Enterprise.

Museum of Science & Industry. Liverpool Road (0161-832 2244). Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; £5, cones £3, under 5's free.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE Science Factory
Science centre for children. Discovery Museum. Blandford Square (0191-2326789).

Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; free.

CRITIC'S CHOICE LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS

Duke's Road, WC1 (0171-

387 0031). Today 8pm; £8,

ILONDON

negotiation

concs £6.

Place Theatre

Bedlam Dauce

Company: Yes! Yes? &

Exploring conflict and

A rare revival of William Forsythe's first ballet, to Mahler music, Is on tonight's final programme of the London season, also Jiri Kylian's thrilling Janacek Sinfonietta. A sleek young company trying to revitalise the modern ballet tradition. it goes on during the coming week to His Majestys Theatre Aberdeen and the Kings Theatre Glasgow. John Percival

Sadier's Wells Theatre. Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (0171-713 6000) today at 7.30pm; £7.50-£17.50. Cones. £10.

Tap Dogs Macho Australian tap dance revue. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WI (0171-494 5045). Tonight 6pm & 8.45pm; 55-

M REGIONAL ALDEBURGH Phoenix Dance Jazz by Orphy Robinson accompanies Movements in 8. and Chantal Donaldson's Never Still. Snape Maitings Concert

(01728 453543). Today

with Ravel's Piano

Barbican Centre, EC2

Barbican Hall,

OXFORD CandoCo Troupe with able-bodied 7.30pm; E5-£10, concs £3-£8.

Euripides's tragedy (1797) was

admired by Beethoven, and,

as conducted by Paul Daniel

almost be by Beethoven - his

is a thrilling reading of a trail-

Lloyd's production is superb.

Barstow in Medea

THEATRE

The Designated Mourner Mike Nichols makes his

Wallace Shawn's new play.

the woman torn between her

2252). Previews tonight, 8pm; mat 4pm. Opens Apr 24,

Only another week in which

to catch Michael Gambon as

an aggressive but troubled

businessman, Lia Williams as

the earnest schoolteacher with

whom he hopes to relaunch

an old affair, and the sharpest

dialogue David Hare has

Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Today 3pm

Stephen Dillane play Hamm

Alun Armstrong and

Mitchell's production of

Earlham St, WC2 (UI71-369)

middle-period Beckett.

Donmar Warehouse.

An Ideal Husband

of sleaze and scandal.

Haymarket, SWI (0171-930 8800). 7.45pm; mat 3pm. (2)

Welcome return of Julian

Theatre Royal.

Salad Days

and Clov in Katie

British acting debut in

Miranda Richardson is

father and another man.

David Hare directs. National (Cottesloe). South Bank, SEI (0171-928

8pm. Then in rep. 🖨

CRITICS CHOICE

SKYLIGHT

written in years.

Wyndhams.

and 8pm.

Endgame

III LONDON

7.15pm; £9-£36. 🔊

Rodney Milnes

BROMLEY

Cinderella

available.

HULL

Space.

Irish Dance.

London City Ballet:

A new production by

Churchill Theatre.

Matthew Hart.

DANCE

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, on at Sadler's Wells and disabled dancers. Pegasus Theatre, Magdalen Road (01865 722851). Today, phone for details.

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SEVENOAKS High Street (0181-460 6677). Today 2.30pm & Hot Tap. Community-based 7.45pm; £12-£17, concs dance. Stag Theatre: London Road (01732-450175). Today 7.30pm; E5,

Scottleh Ballet La Sylphide/Ae Fond Kiss. corics £3.50. Bournonville's tale of SHEFFIELD seduction in the highlands. Northern Ballet New Theatre, Kingston Square (01482-226655), Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm; £5.50-£25. Theatre: Don Quixote. Cervantes' classic tragicomic romance. Lyceum Theatre, Norfolk Street (0114-276 LANCASTER

Clerkinworks: Sods in 9922). Today 7.45pm: £8-Subtitled the Science of STOCKPORT Adogais Ballet Dukes Playhouse, Moor Lane (01524-66645). Today 7.30pm; phone for details. A new ballet by Jan Kitteridge. Davenport,

Company: Arabian Nights. Buxton Road (0161-483 3801). Today 7.30pm; £7.50-

Vaudeville, .

Riverside Studios, Crisp Rd. Hammersmith. W6 (0181-741 2251). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.45pm.

Tommy Hugely impressive staging of the traumatised child's wizard. Loads of electronic tricks disguise the improbability. Shaftesbury. Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2

EDINBURGH Resurrection New Maureen Lawrence play examines the relationship between Dr Samuel Johnson (Malcolm Rennie) and his black manservant, Francis Barber (Tyrone Huggins). Directed by Peeny Ciniewicz. Traverse Cambridge Street.

NOTTINGHAM **Happy End**

Benedict Nightingale STRATFORD-ON-AVON The White Devil The Swan Theatre opens the 1996 season with Webster's Jacobean tragedy. Jane Gurnett plays the vigorous but doomed Vittoria, Gale Edwards directs.

Swan. Waterside (01789 295623). Previews today, 1.30pm and 7.30pm. Opens Apr 26. In rep. 🚱

NORWICH The Last Yankee Glen Walford directs Stephen Ley and Graham Howes in Arthur Miller's moving play. Plavhouse.

POP

concs available.

LONDON Blaggers ITA, Near Death Experience, Potiatch Punk with a political edge. Underworld, World's End, Camden High Street, NWI (0171-482 1932). Today 7.30pm:

The Brotherhood of Man Memorable sugar-sweet pop

Clapham Junction, SWII (0171-738 9000). Today 8pm;

Wilko Johnson Band The former Feelgood guitar The Standard, Blackhorse Lane, E17 (0181-523

Barry Manilow Cabaret schmaltz at its finest. Wembley Arena, Empire Way (0181-900 1234). Today/tomorrow 6.30pm;

0055). Today 8pm; £5.

New Model Army, Det-Ri-

The Times has joined with

best from your holiday

photographs. The 214-page

Fodor's to offer you an indis-

pensable guide to getting the

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London shops.

GUIDES

Newbury by-pass benefit concert Shepherd's Bush Empire,

Shepherd's Bush Green, WIZ (0181-740 7474). Tomorrow 7pm; £10.

REGIONAL CRITICS CHOICE

LONGPIGS Fronted by charismatic singer and songwriter Crispin Hunt, Longpigs have already dented the Top 20 with their dreamy single On and On. But the group from Sheffield are really going to knock people back on their heels with their astounding debut album. The Sun is Often Out (released April 29), a transcendent collection similar in mood and tone to the mighty Radiohead album The Bends. Catch them while they're hot.

David Sindaii Twa Tams. Scott St, Perth (01738 634500), today, £2.

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FODOR'S GUIDE APPLICATION FORM

THE SEA TIMES

BIRMINGHAM Meal Loaf Classic rock anthems National Exhibition Centre

(0121-780 4133). Today Folk and punk groups play a 6.30pm; £17.50-£20.

Wembley: Barry Manilow

GLASGOW Longpigs See Critic's Choice. King Tut's Wah Wah Hut, Glasgow (0141-221 5279),

Alanis Morissette, Honeycrack. Young Brit Awards winner whose ethereal voice oozes angst. Barrowland, Gallowgate (0141-552 4601). Today 7pm; phone for availability.

Shed Seven York group whose credible Indie sound stays outside of the Britpop arena while still scooping hits.

The Tower, Anlaby Road (01482-323121). Tomorrow 8pm; £7.

ILFORD The Wildhearts. Blameless The boys return with more heavy metal mania. Island Ilford. High Road (0181-514-1400).

MANCHESTER Leftfield

Tomorrow 8pm; £9.

Bizarre dance troupe. Manchester Academy, Oxford Road (0161-275 2930). Today 9pm; £12.50.

JAZZ

LONDON Doug Carn Spacey 1970s soul-jazz pianist. Jazz Café. NWI (0171-344 Parkway, 0044). Today 7pm; £12, adv

James Taylor Quartet Acid Jazz masters in residence. Jazz Café. Parkway. NWI (0171-344 0044). Tomorrow 7pm; phone

for availability.



George Melly performs

Magnificent Master Drummers of Africa Thrilling drum sextet from all corners of Africa. Purcell Room. South Bank, SEI (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow 8pm; £10.

CRITIC'S CHOICE GEORGE MELLY

Ignore the dismal adaptation of his memoir Owning Up. As a performer he remains in a louche class of his own, supported by the ever-faithful trumpeter John Chilton and his Feetwarmers. Melly must have performed the low-down Frankie and Johnnie a million times by now, but his vaudeville routine never fails to raise a smile.

Clive Davis Pizza on the Park, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-235 5550). Tonight, 9.15pm and 11.15pm; £18. adv £16.

Steps Ahead Mike Manieri's dancefloor fusion, plus singer Sarah Jane Morris Ronnie Scott's Frith Street, WI (0171-439 0747). Today 9pm; 512, mems

Martin Taylor/ David Grisman Country-jazz guitarist joins avant-bluegrass mandolin

virtuoso. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, WI (0171-935 2141). Tomorrow 7.30pm: E7.50-E15. REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM Deidre Cartwright's Blow the Fuse Fusion guitarist on tour. Cannon Hill Park (0121-440 3838). Today 8pm: £7,

concs £5. Georgie Fame 960s soul-jazz organist. Ronnie Scott's, Broad Street (0121-643 4525). Today 8pm; £12, concs

£9, mems £5. EDINBURGH Dave Milligan Trio Top post-bop pianist. Henry's Cellar Bar. Morrison Street (0131-221

1288). Tomorrow 8pm; free. FAREHAM Helen Watson Band New-blues diva. Ashcroft Arts Centre. Oshorne Road (01329) 235[6]). Today 8pm; £6, concs

HULL Helen Watson Band See Fareham. Blue Lamp. Norfolk Street (01482-329833). Tomorrow 8pm; £6,

MANCHESTER Segovia Trio Spanish guitar virtuosos. Royal Northern College of Oxford Road (0161-273 4504/5534). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £8, concs £6.

cones £5.

CLASSICAL

LONDON Alasdair Cameron Piano recital of Schubert, Lizst and Beethoven's last St John's, Smith Square, SWI (0171-222 1061). Tomorrow 7.30pm:

£6 & £10. Gershwin & Co Songs by Gershwin and others from soprano Sarah Poole and ensemble. Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, SEI (0171-960 4242). Today 7.30pm; £6-£10.

LSO/Tilson Thomas

Four Stravinsky works

Kent County Youth Orchestra/Vincent Schubert's Unfinished Symphony with Elgar's 1st. Royal Festival Hall. South Bank, SEI (0171-960) 4242). Today 7.30pm; £6.50-£12.50.

London Symphony Rigoletto Chorus/Westrop Rossini's Petite Messe Solenelle and his Choruses for female voices. St John's. Smith Square, SWI (0171-222 1061). Today 7.30pm: £6-LEEDS

Civic Theatre, Cookridge Street (0113-Concerto for Left Hand. 2476962/455505). Today 7.30pm; £6.50 & £8.

(0171-638 8891). Tomorrow CRITIC'S CHOICE 3.30pm; £6-£30. MEDEA Cherubini's operatic setting of

CRITIC'S CHOICE THE MOSCOW SOLOISTS Founded and led by the world's greatest viola player. for Opera North, it could Yuri Bashmet, the ensemble can vary rather alarmingly in performance - from sloppy to blazingly inventive score. And mesmeric. On their day, the title role could almost though, they display the best have been written for Dame aspects of Russian string-Josephine Barstow, who playing: passion, power and terrific virtuosity. Their Barsings a storm. Phyllida bican programme includes Russian music as well as Grand Theatre, Richard Morrison New Briggate, Leeds (0113 244 0971/245 9351) Today

Britten. Barbican. Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891), tonight, 7.30pm, £6-£20. Royal Philharmonic/

Marking Lord Menuhin's S0th birthday with Mozart's 5th Violin Concerto. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Today 7pm; £10-£65.

REGIONAL BATH

Western Sinfonia/Stroman Odes by Blow and Purcell, with Britten's Cantata Misericordium. Bath Abbey, (01225-448831). Today 7.30pm; £7, cones £5.60.

MANCHESTER Halle/Bruggen Mozart's Symphony No 41, and Haydn's No 104. Free Trade Hall, Peter Street (0161-834 1712). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £3.25-£21.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra/Kreizberg Schumann's Piano Concerto and Berlioz's Symphonie fantastique. City Hall. (0191-261 2606). Tomarrow 3pm: £6-£17.50.

OPERA

LONDON ENO's Keith Warner's

staging of Puccini's opera. London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Today 7.30pm; £8-£50. REGIONAL

CANTERBURY La Vie Parisienne Lindsay Dolan directs this operatic farce by Offenbach. Marlowe Theatre. The Friars (01227-787787). Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm: £8.50-£24.50.

EXETER Verdi's dramatic tragedy. Northcott Theatre, Stocker Road (01392-493493). Today 7.30pm; £11-

Le Roi d'Ys Lalo's Wagnerian opera by West Riding Opera.

directed by Ned Sherrin... Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Tonight, 8pm; mat

The Shattered Vessei Kleist's comedy about a venal judge, usually translated as The Broken

Jug.

(0171-379 5399). Tonight, 8pm;

mat, 3pm. 🔊 ■ REGIONAL

Edinburgh (0131-228 1404). Tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

Martin Duncan directs Brecht's awkward confrontation between Salvation Army lass and Chicago gang boss. Playhouse, Wellington Circus (0115-9419419). Tonight, 7.30pm.



Gambon in Skylight

1732). Today. 4pm and 8pm. (2)

Last night for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama St George's Street, NR3 (01603 766466). Today,

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MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

LONDON After the Flood Multi-media and photography by RCA Royal College of Art, Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-584 5020). Today/tomorrow 10am-6pm; free.

Gustave Caillebotte: The Unknown Impressionist An illuminating range of paintings.

Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-439 7438). Today/tomorrow l0am-6pm; £4.50, concs £3.50.

Empty spaces explored in multi-media show including Knut Maron. South London Art Gallery, Peckham Road, SE5 (0171-703 6120). Today/tomorrow 2pm-6pm; free.

CRITIC'S CHOICE BLOOD, SEA AND ICE This may be the beginning of the Nelson decade at the National Maritime Museum. But clearly the museum does not want us to forget other great British scafarers, and the present exhibition pays tribute to three more, explorers all: Sir Francis Drake, Captain James Cook and Sir John Franklin. The show actually commemorates the 400th anniversary of Drake's death, but it probably seemed politic to throw in the

other two. Still, the most exciting and

evocative things are in Drake's section. John Russell Taylor National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SEIO (0181-858 4422) Today l0am-6pm, tomorrow 2-6pm; £5.50. cones £4.50.

Spellbound: Art & Film The talents of artists and directors. Hayward Gallery, Belvedere Road, SEI (0171-960 4242). Today/tomorrow 10am-6pm; £5, concs

Rachel Whiteread Long-awaited new prints from the controversial Turner Prize winner. Karsten Schubert.

Foley Street, W1 (0171-631 0031/580 3546). Today 10am-3pm; free.

■ REGIONAL

DURHAM Flesh & Spirit: Velasquez & Painters in 17th Century Madrid
Work from the Golden Age of Spanish painting. Bowes Museum,

tomorrow 2pm-5pm; phone for prices. BIRMINGHAM George Rodger: A Photographic Journey Images from the award-winning photojournalist.

(01833 690606). Today 10am-5pm,

The Gas Hall, Chamberlain Square (0121-235 1966). Today 10am-5pm, Tomorrow 12.30pm-5pm; £2.50, cones £1.50. LEEDS

Jasper Johns: The Sculptures Sculptures by the pop artist. Henry Moore Institute, The Headrow (0113-246 7467). Today 10am-5.30pm; free. LIVERPOOL

Home and Away: Internationalism and British Art 1900-1990 Exploration of boundaries and geographies. Tate Gallery Liverpool, Albert Dock (015)-709 3223). Today/tomorrow i0am-6pm; free.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE George Baselitz Paintings by the master of Neo-Expressionism.

University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Sandyford Road (0191-227 4424). Today 10am-4pm; free.

WAKEFIELD Max Erust Featuring sculpture and drawings by the influential Surrealist. Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Bretton Hall (01924 830302). Today/tomorrow 10am-1pm; free.



Doorway to a Kondofan House, 1949, from photojournalist George Rodger's exhibition

COMING SOON

Miranda Richardson is Orlando in Edinburgh

LONDON AND REGIONAL BRIGHTON May 4-26 Brighton Festival 96. Highlights include The Maly Theatre of St Petersburg in Gaudeamus (May 7-11, Corn Exchange Theatre). Box Office: 01273-709709.

EDINBURGH August 11-31 Edinburgh 50th International Festival Box-office opens today for telephone bookings Highlights include Miranda Richardson in Robert Wilson's adaptation of Virginia Woolf's Orlando (Royal Lyceum Theatre. Aug 13-21).

Billy Bragg, The Brotherhood, Transglobal Underground. Clapham Common, noon-8pm, free,

May 9-August 18 Derek Jarman - artist. film-maker, designer.

A Jarman retrospective at the Barbican Art Gallery coinciding with a Barbican Cinema season of his films, May 11-12, 18-19, and 25-26. Box Office: 0171-382 7000.

May 22-August 26 Degas — Beyond Impressionism. Major retrospective at the National Gallery. Advance bookings: 0171-420 0000.

From May 9 Sylvia. Zoe Wanamaker plays the title role in A.R. Gurney's hit romantic comedy, directed by Michael Blakemore. Apollo Theatre. Box Office: 0171-494 5070.

kd lang. Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool (May 5, 0151-709 3789); Brighton Centre (May 6, 01273 202881); Bournemouth International Centre (May 7, 01202 297297); Wembley Arena, London (May 9-11, 0181-900 1234).

FILM -

Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol .) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

CRITIC'S CHOICE

医咽喉 建硫酸盐 医髓下 经国际管理

NELLY & MONSTEUR ARNAUD (PG) Claude Sautet's subtle and tender study of an older man and a younger woman who edge towards intimacy. He (Michel Serrault) is a retired colonial Judge, she (Emmanuelle Beart) is a 25 year-old sires. There is no sex; just hesitations and a secret caress wonderfully conveyed, and a veteran director on top form.

Geoff Brown Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720); Gate Notting Hill (0171-727 4043); Richmond (0181-332 0030); Ritzy (0171-737 2121); Screen on the Hill (0171-435 3366).

 ◆ Before and After (12) Glum family drama with Meryl Streep and Liam Neeson as parents of a teenager accused of murder. Director, Barbet Schroder. Odeons: Kensington (01426-914 666), Leicester Square (01426-915 683), Swiss Cottage (0171-586 3057).

Criss-crossing lives in Brooklyn. Agreeable piece by Paul Auster, with Harvey Keitel. Director, Wayne

Wang. Everyman (5) (0171-435 1525); Lumiere (0171-836 0691); MGM Fulham Road 🗟 (0171-370 2636): Renoir (0171-837 8402); Richmond (0181-332 0030); Ritzy (0171-737 2121); UCI Whiteleys (0171-792

◆ Twelve Monkeys (15) Unwieldy extravaganza from former Monty Python collaborator Terry Gilliam, with Bruce Willis as the shaven-headed timetraveller seeking the source of a virus. With Madeleine Stowe and Brad Pitt. Barbican 🔕 (0171-638 8891): Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772), Fulham Road 🔊

(0171-370 2636), Shaftesbury



Michel Serrault on screen

Avenue (0171-836 6279), Trocadero (0171-434 0031); Notting Hill Coronet (5) (0171-727 6705); Odeon Swiss Cottage (01426 914098); Plaza (0800-888 997); Rlo (0171-254 6677); Ritzy (0171-737 2121); UCI Whiteleys 🖺 (0171-792 3332); Warner West End (017)-437 4343).

Unzipped (15) Exuberant fashion documentary about designer Isaac Mizrahi as he creates a new collection. Director, Douglas Keeve. MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636), Shaftesbury

Avenue (0171-836 62791: Ritzy (0171-737 2121).

CURRENT

◆ Broken Arrow (15) John Travolta steals nuclear weapons; Christian Slater tries to get them back. Bumprious and brainless action movie. directed by John Woo. MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772), Chelsea (0171-352 5096); Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666), Marble Arch (01426 914501), Swiss Cortage (01426 914098), West End (0)426-915 574); UCI Whiteleys

(0171-792 3332). Mighty Aphrodite (15) Woody Allen searches for his talented adopted son's natural mother, and finds a tart. Engaging variation on old themes, with Oscarwinner Mira Sorvino. Barbican 🖨 (0171-638 8891); Cheisea (0171-351 3742) Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); Odeons: Haymarket (01426 915353) Kensington (01426 914666) Swiss Cottage (01426 914098); Phoenix (0181-883 2233); Ritzy (0171-737 2121): Screen/ Baker Street (0171-935 2772); Screen/Green

> (0171-792 3332): Warner West End (0171-437 4343). Small Faces (18) Gillies and Billy MacKinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood among teenage gang warfare in the late 1960s, largely cast with local

(0171-226 3520); UCI Whiteleys

talent. MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096), Haymarket (0171-839 1527), Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148); Warner **(**0171-437 4343).

FAIRS

LONDON Chelsea Arts Fair Over 35 exhibitors sell their wares, ranging from the traditional and the classical to contemporary paintings and sculptures Cheisea Old Town Hall. King's Road, SW3 (0171-352 3619). Today Ilam-6pm, Tomorrow Ham-5pm: £3.

London Book Fair Wide collection of secondhand, rare and antiquarian books, maps, engraved and decorative orints. Royal National Theatre

Fover South Bank, SEI (0171-928 2253). Today liam-7.15pm; Royal Geographical

Society, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 5466). Tomorrow llam-5pm; free. Third Annual Unconvention

Spooky annual conference of strange phenomenon with this year's main theme focusing on UFO's and Government, Conspiracy and Cover-Up. University of London Institute of Education, Bedford Way, WCI (0171-470 2407). Today/tomorrow, phone for details; two-day ticket £25, one-day £15.

REGIONAL EDINBURGH Serving Suggestions
Festival of Moving Image Filmhouse, Lothian Road (0131-556 2044). Today/tomorrow, phone for details; £2-£4.

- POETRY

LONDON Galaxy of Poets from Pakistan Led by Qasim Pirzada. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today 7.45pm; £8-£12, concs available

This Day's Delight An evening of verse and The Orangery, Kenwood House,

Hampstead Lane, NW3 (0171-413 1443). Tomorrow 7.30pm: £6.50-£12.50, concs £5-£9.50.

REGIONAL BARROW-IN-

FURNESS The First Word-of-Mouth Festival. American Poets and Publishing (today 10am: £I) and Sarah Miller performing Eve's Diary with Henry Normal (today 7.30pm; £5). The Giant Book of Barrow is launched (today 2pm, free). Forum 28, Duke Street (01229 820 000).

BEDFORD Don Paterson Poetry Workshop (today 10am-3pm; £10, cones £7); Paterson reading (tonight 7.30pm, £3, concs £2). Bedford Central Library. Harpur Street (01234-269519).

RELIGION

Walking the edge holding the centre The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Rev Roy Williamson, is inviting parishioners to join him for part of his 110mile walk through the 77 parishes on or near the boundary of his Diocese. This weekend he will reach Felbridge near East Grinstead and will then turn westward to Charlwood, near Gatwick, then north through Tadworth and the Kingston area (April 25) before following the Thames eastwards and returning to Southwark on April 26. Further information: Patrick Olivier, 0171-403 8686

Wallenberg Sabbath

Synagogues of all lenominations are designating today, Saturday, which falls between Holocaust Memorial Day and Israel's Independence Day, as Wallenberg Sabbath. Raoul Wallenberg was the Swedish diplomat who saved the lives of thousands of Jews in Hungary towards the end of the Second World War and today rabbis will speak of his selflessness and invite donations to the Wallenberg Appeal. The appeal, set up by the International Council for Christians and Jews and administered by the Holocaust Education Trust, is to raise money to build a permanent London memorial to Wallenberg. Further information: Michael Wohl, 0171-485 2538.

COMEDY

LONDON Banana Cabaret With Sean Meo, Woody Bop Muddy, Simon Fox, Noel The Bedford.

Bedford Hill, SW12 (0181-673 1756). Today 9pm; £6, concs £4. Chuckle Club

Featuring Hattie Hayridge and Owen O'Neill. London School of Economics, Houghton Street, WC2 (0171-476 1672). Today 7.45pm; £6, students £4.

CRITIC'S CHOICE COMEDY STORE

PLAYERS Surely the National Theatre of stand-up, London's longestablished yet ever-alternative Comedy Store is a safe bet for anyone who likes to crease up of a Sunday. Tonight the venue's star team, the Com-edy Store Players, improvise fresh funny business. A chance to witness Lee Simpson, Richard Vranch, Jim Sweeney, Nell Mullarkey and the impossibly amusing Paul Merton thinking on their feet and flexing their wits en Kate Bassett The Comedy Store,

Haymarket House, Oxendon St, SWI (info: 01426-914433, bookings: 0171-344 4444). Today, 8pm (doors open 6.30). Tomorrow 8pm: £9.

Downstairs at the King's Head With Helen Austin, Steve Brody and Paul Rogan. King's Head. Crouch End Hill, N8 (018)-340 1028). Tomorrow 8.30pm; £4.50, cones £3.50.

Ha Bloody Ha Featuring Sean Percival, Matthew Hardy, Ian Stone and Paul B Edwards. The Viaduct, Uxbridge Road, W7 (018)-566 4067). Today 9pm; £5,



London: Hattie Hayridge

Jongleurs Camden Established venue plays host to Mickey Hutton and Dominic Holland. Jongleurs Comedy. Camden Lock, Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-924 2766). Today 7.15pm & 11.15pm; £10, concs £7.

The Quality Shag Armstrong & Miller provide an absurd slant on life with car chases on swivel chairs and crooners from Vegas.

Latchmere Theatre. Battersea Park Road, SWII (0171-228 2620), Today 10.30pm: £6, cones £4.

Up The Creek Popular Greenwich haunt features Malcolm Hardee. Parrot, Milton Jones and Al Murray. Up The Creek. Creek Road, SE10 (0181-858 4581). Tomorrow 9pm: £6,

■ REGIONAL

concs £4.

BIRMINGHAM Glee Club With Phil Davey, Robinson, Paddy Keilty and Ivor Dembina The Glee Club. Hurst Street (0121-622 2248). Today 8.30pm; £8.50.

BRACKNELL Friday Alternative Their 10th-anniversary bash includes the Theatre of Fruit. Tony Hawks and John Mann. South Hill Park Arts Centre. Ringmend (01344 484123).

Today Spn; £6. COVENTRY The Posse The best talent from the black-comedy circuit. Belgrade Theatre. Belgrade Square (01203 553055). Today 8pm; £7-£15.

POOLE Julian Clary The defrocked queen of double-entendre, in a new Poole Arts Centre, Kingland Road (01202 685222). Today 8pm; £11.50.

Ruth Gledhill celebrates the presence of young Christians in church Take away food for thought



IN THE flickering shad-ows of the darkly lit nave in this one-time Benedictine abbey, teenage girls swung, swayed and jived to the music. We sat on icy cold flagstones or embroidered kneelers

and watched. In the gloomy but romantic medieval nave of St Alban's Cathedral, this was a special youth service, one of many initiatives being used by the Church of England to bring back its legions of baptised but alienated youngsters. Church attendance by young people had fallen by a third in seven years, according to a church report earlier this month.

As is fashionable today, the young-sters, visiting from as far afield as Finland, had dressed themselves as unattractively as possible in baggy jeans, unmatching and equally-baggy sweaters and ungainly, clod-hopping shoes and trainers. But at least they were in church. Holding enormous white candles be-

fore them, priests robed in red waited in procession in the nave as the young women mimed the motions of a line dance, country and then disco. We were invited, now standing, to renew the baptismal promises made on our behalf by godparents at our baptisms.

Do you repent of your sins? asked

the Rev Nicholas Elder, vicar of Bedford.

"Do you renounce evil," he asked. "I repent of my sins," we all responded. "I renounce evil."

He repeated the questions in German, and then asked all there to make a "profession of Christian faith". The reply: "We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit." We were each given a candle to carry, and these were lit by passing the flame

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ARCHITECTURE: Austere building, a strange midure of styles ranging from Early English to Victorian. SERMON: A reflection on whether there was any point to anything, including the Resurrection. MUSIC: Remarkable chants and hymns from a mixed choir, with some of the most beautiful girls' voices I've heard in church.

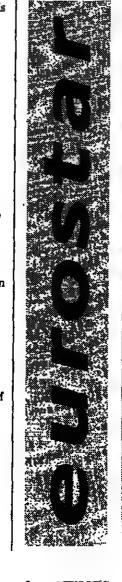
LITURGY: Pleasant feeling of floating freestyle through familiar forms. AFTER-SERVICE CARE: One of the country's best cathedral restaurants is open during the day. SPIRITUAL HIGH: Preferable to drink or drugs. from one to another as we left the nave in procession towards this shrine, placing our candles before it with a prayer. We sat on the floor once more, by the Lady Chapel in front of the shrine, followed by youngsters carrying their home-made

We sang enjoyable and meditative chants such as Jesus, remember me and Jubilate Deo, and listened to readings by youngsters from abroad, their accents giving emphasis to familiar words. There are many rooms in my father's house and I am going to prepare a place for you," from John's gospel. "I am the way, the truth and the life."

Mr Elder preached in a humorous and sensitive style that was warmly received by his congregation. "After any special event we have to ask the question, what was the point?" he said. He compared this with how the first apostles might have felt after the Crucifixion, and upon finding the empty tomb. "We cannot hang on to good experiences for ever." said Mr Elder. "We have to go out. I leave you with the questions so what?" leave you with the question: so what?" Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, Sumpter Yard, St Albans, Herts,

● At a Service Near You, a collection of Ruth Gledhill's At Your Service columns in The Times, is now on sale (Hodder & Stoughton, £7.99).

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Palm Springs: the Hollywood brat packs have gone, Peter Hughes says. The new obsession is 'life extension'

Come back Errol Flynn, all is forgiven

t Palm Springs air-port the first thing you see is a rank of wheelchairs at the foot of the aircraft steps. Each has an attendant in a white shirt and topee. The second thing is a bronze bust of Ronald Reagan on sale in a showcase. The third - and we have reached the passenger terminal now - is a golf shop beside an open-air putting green, with real grass, Health. Hollywood and golf: Palm Springs has slipped you three of its icons before you've even recovered your suitcase.

The town lies quartered like tiles on the floor of a wide desert valley 107 miles southeast of Los Angeles. Half of it is owned by the Cahuilla Native Americans who, in the 1870s, were handed huge tracts of desert by the US Government as part of the deal to build a railroad.

What began as a patronising offer, considering the Cahuillas thought they owned the land already, turned out to be one of the great windfulls of history. One century's desert is another's real estate, and the Palm Springs Cahuillas, whose rents come tax-free, are now the richest Native Americans in the US. Of the 700 known millionaires in the Coachella Valley, a third are said to be Native Americans.

Palm Springs hasn't quite discovered the secret of eternal old age but it's working on it. Even the desert tours are preoccupied with the medicinal uses the Cahuillas found for every root and leaf.

The buildings along Palm Canyon Drive look like the first ones put up in the 1930s which, in turn, were modelled on the Spanish-Californian style of the 19th century.

In winter - if that is the word in 80F - the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies plays a six-month season at the Plaza Theatre with a chorus line of "showgirls" aged between 50 and SO. Clinics of one description or another, from the Berty Ford Center at Rancho Mirage to the hospital wing donated by Frank Sinatra, fill pages of the phone book, reaching an apotheosis in the Palm Springs Life Extension

In this town, no building may be taller than a palm tree, and none is so vulgar as a motel; there are only hotels. inns or lodges. Water in the valley is so bountiful that in summer, when the temperature reaches 120F, you come within a whisker of outdoor air conditioning: "misters" play fine spray over the side-

walks to cool pedestrians. The sun shines every day. the air is Kodak clear, and the big, crinkled mountains loll around the edge of town as brown and dry as old pumice.



American Airlines (0345 789789) flies daily to Palm Springs from Manchester and Birmingham, Return fares

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offers fly-drive packages from £375, plus taxes. Minimum, seven days.

At Palm Springs. lemocratures between June and September can be furnace-like, though there is little humidity, It has about 3in of rain a year. The film festival is in early

A trip into the hills and canyons is a must. Ster Wars and Planet of the Apes are among the films shot here. Desert Adventures of Palm Springs (619 864 6530) runs a variety of 4x4 tours in

flame red Jeeps. Your feel the guides belong to the West; they are both knowledgeable and laconic - "In these parts everything bites, sticks, stinks or stings,"

Aeriai Tramway ascenda a

The Palm Springs

valley wall to the 8,500ft summit of Mount Jacinto. (It was built, in 1963. by a company based in Switzerland called Roll, which, deliciously, makes it the Swiss Roll company.) The area has been a film location for Colombo and Mission impossible. At the top there are hiking trails in the State Park and, in winter,

For general Information, contact Paint Springs Tourism in London (0171-978 5233).

cross-country skiing.

The San Bernardino Fault runs along one valley wall, but without knowing what I was looking for I couldn't see it. I felt it. Or rather I felt the instability that lies beneath it. On my first night there was a small earth tremor, but then Palm Springs has earth tremors like freland has showers.

in the Desert Museum which people consult as casually as they would a barometer in Ballyshannon. Little else but nature shakes the place these days. In the 1930s and 1940s things were different. Clark Gable and Carole Lombard honeymooned at the ingleside Inn and Errol Flynn built a hotel, which burnt down. where he and his cronies could

roister uninterrupted.
The actors Ralph Beilamy and Charlie Farrell opened the Racquet Club after the Desert inn threw them out for keep-



Sounding a chord from Pain Springs's start/ past is Liberace's post in the shape of a grand plane. The closest you come to the old voluntuousness is on an \$11 tou, of celebriries' homes

ing Marlene Diemen off the tennis court. The "it" girl. Clara Bow, stayed at the El Mirador, where there was almost enough "it" going on to jog the Richter scale. As the caustic columnist Dorothy Parker observed: in most resorts you lay on the sand and looked at the stars: in Pairs Springs you jay on the stars

Today the buzz and titiliation of the tennis court has been replaced by the bromide of the golf course - about 90 of them - and on the site of the El Mirador there is, inevitably, a hospital.

The closest you come to the old voluptuousness is or, a \$11 Celebrity Tour. It promises the sight of up to 45 celebrity homes "up close". What you see are the wails of houses where celebrities used to live.
There is Bing Crusby's wall.

and the wall behind which Barbara Hutton, the Woolworth heiress, lived with Carv Grant, "Cash and Cary", said Tom Colgan, the guide.

Jack Benny built Palm Springs first floodlit tennis court behind a wall which was later owned by Barry Manilow: Elvis and Priscilla spent their honeymoon behind another: their bedroom can still be rented. There is the wail behind which Liberace debauched and then died. His pool is in the shape of a grand piano and an Sft candelabra stands at the front door. Liberace was very well thought of here," Tom said.

The longest wall belonged to Liz Taylor and Mike Todd; Greta Garbo, perversely, had a wooden fence. The house of Lee Remick's brother, an ar-



6 The buzz of the tennis court has been replaced by the bromide of the golf course ?

chitect, is the ultimate wall. With no windows, it is all wall. Palm Springs drops names faster than trees shed leaves. Goldie Hawn and Kirk Douglas are among the stars who have houses there. Bob Hope owns three homes in the valley as well as entire mountainsides, bought before there was a market in mountains. His most speciacular property squats beneath a mushroomshaped roof on a mountain rioge. "Bob doesn't live up there. He just parties there," Tom confided. "Fie can have 300 for a sit-down dinner." If you can't achieve immor-

tality by having Celebrity Tour buses routed past your wall, you can always give an enclosure to the Living Desert Wildlife Park. Instead of the house where Spencer Tracy lived, there is the Hutchins Pond, home to the desert publish and given in memory of one Harley Hutchins. The black vulture lives in a cage man; the acorn woodpecker owes its home to Shawn Harvezo, and the late Aima Amberson Wright would be proud to think that her name is attached in perpetuity to Cayate Grotto.

At least the inhabitants of the Living Desert and their benefactors are not subject to the exprice of fashion in the same way that Hollywood veterans are. Spielman and the black vulture would seem to have a slightly more secure tochold on elemity than Gene Autry, the octogenarian singing cowboy.
The western-style Autry Ho-

tel at the end of Palm Canyon Drive, which the star bought in 1964, has just been reopened as the Givency Hotel and Spa. it is modelied on the Givency spa at Versailles, with a French chef, formal gardens, balustrades and fragrances. Goodbye wagon-wheel bar tables, hello aromatherapy.

Palm Springs' "life exten-sion" no longer ites in being a sort of sandpit where the Hollywood brat pack played. These days the stars come from Michelin.

PETER HUGHES • The author was a guest of Palm Springs and American Airlines.

Dream with the stars

ARTISTS, driven out by the movie colony 60 years ago, are returning to Paim Springs for the same reasons that they came in the first place: the light, the heat, the desert and the isolation.

They are staying in the same bungalows and rooms that Greta Garbo or Clark Gable once relaxed in Investment has poured into hideaway hotels that had fallen into decline in the past few years. The Korakia, built in 1924

and where Winston Churchill

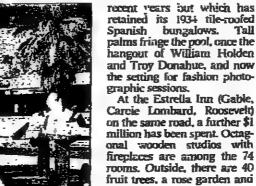
painted in an upstairs art

studio, re-opened as a 12reomed hotel three years ago. Four-poster feather beds, beamed ceilings and oriental rugs are among its features. Its owner, Doug Smith, an architect who cace ran 2 café on the Greek island of Spetses, is host to the

arts, music and film people. In the town centre, within walking distance of the small hotels, there are 65 restaurants, compared with 30 five years ago. In 1990 there was only one cafe with tables outside; now there are more than 20.

"We are losing a lot of commercial properties and adding more entertainment-type properties," says Bob Weithorn, manager of the Orchard Tree Inn. Palm Springs is getting back to the way it was."

The Orchard Tree is a small hotel on which \$1 million (about £650,000) has been spent in



million has been spent. Octag-onal wooden studios with fireplaces are among the 74 rooms. Outside, there are 40 fruit trees, a rose garden and

three pacis.

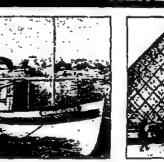
Most hotels are set in lush sub-tropical grounds in the same neighbourhood, nestled against the base of the Jacinto Mountain but within a fiveminute stroll to the main Palm Canyon Drive

and the town centre. Mostly they offer breakfast only, with guests walking to restaurants or cooking for themselves - most rooms have kitchen facilities, with teabags for guests.

STEVE KEENAN

The author was a guest of Palm Springs and TWA (0171-139-0707), which files to Los Angeles from 6310 return. The Orchard Tree charges \$33-\$125 (£22-£110) per room from June-October, \$63-\$190 in minter. The Estrella, \$65-\$165 in July-August and \$75-\$165 at other times (from \$93 to the end of April). The Korakia charges from \$52-\$115 year-r ticiel tar is t0.1 per cent on top.





EXPLORING TO FRANCE WITH PORTUGAL

Lisbon, plus golf courses and family holidays in the Algarve

PAGES 18, 19

BARGAIN DEALS How the ferries are fighting the Chunnel and Le Shuttle

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renaissance and castles in Yorkshire PAGE 21

PLUS: WHITEWATER-RAFTING ON THE ZAMBEZI, PAGE 20



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Fading glories of a busy port

your papers at Portuguese ports of entry, don't mistake of handing over your passport — it's your golfer's handicap certificate they're after. It's a popular joke, and understandable.

But whatever else the country's golfing boom of the past 20 years has achieved - there are 17 courses on the Algarve coast alone - it has done little for Portugal's hinterland and the capital, Lisbon, except to leave them ripe for discovery.

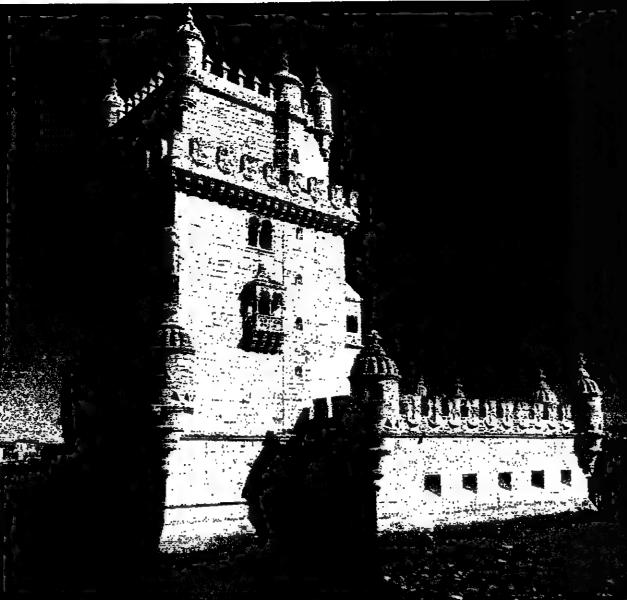
Some tour operators are looking beyond Portugal's fairways. "Rather like the costas in Spain, many people assume Portugal is the Algarve." says Patrick Fleming, of the Magic of Portugal. "We emphasise rural tourism in little-known areas such as the

Alentejo (Beyond the Tagus)." Meanwhile, the expanding range of more than 60 pousadas - the accommodation in historic buildings such as the 15th-century Convent of emulate the success of Spain's

paradors. The volume of traf-fic is low outside the cities, car hire is cheap, and the main danger is locals who treat the road network as an extension of the Formula One circuit at Estoril, near Lisbon.

With one million inhabitants and a convenient airport, Lisbon is one of Europe's most manageable capitals. It is also one of the most attractive, opting for atmospheric dilapidation rather than brutish modernisation. Within minutes of landing, the airport bus noses between flamboyant buildings painted every shade of peeling pastel. Formal squares full of faintly pompous statues suffer the indignity of competing with the weekly wash hung to dry from wrought-iron balconies.

The novelist Henry Fielding called Lisbon "the nastiest city in the world". In the idyllic surroundings of the English cemetery where he is buried the outburst seems particularly cantankerous. The cemetery, one of the many make this city such a delight to



The Belem Tower fortress beside the Tagus, from which Vasco da Gama is said to have sailed on his voyages of discovery

explore, is tended by an aged crone who will grant entry only to visitors who can convince her they are English.

Elsewhere, faded azulejos, the patterned ceramic tiles that are Lisbon's hallmark, and impressive dissident graffiti featuring flocks of obedient sheep - railing against bourgeois conformity, I suspect have turned walls throughout the city into delightful, if incongruous, canvases.

Ancient yellow trams clatter down cobbled streets to the River Tagus. Close to it, at the Ribeira dawn market, the sounds are of old mincing machines shredding cabbages for caldo verde, the muchloved soup, and of flower arrangers stabbing carnation stems into blocks of oasis. Clubbers from dives in the Bairro Alto (upper town) district wash and brush-up here at the only bar serving hot chocolate at this time of the morning, while stallholders doze on their stools.

ers, vegetables and fish are piles of dried discs of salted codfish or bacalhau, the national dish. The Portuguese are proud of their sea-faring roots," said Carlos, our bus driver. "We have eaten bacalhau ever since the pioneer sailors ate it in the age of discovery." Which struck me as akin to the British creating a national cuisine around hardtack and weevils.

For better ways of appreciating Portugal's maritime tradition, visitors head for the Lisbon suburb of Belem, Here, inevitable run-in with

Our party left Lisbon by the suspension bridge across the Tagus, drove past the huge, Rio-like statue of Christ and headed southeast into the Alentejo, a vast plain with its own awesome character. Bare-trunked cork trees had been harvested of their bark. Piles of boulders punctuated the wheat fields like islands: on each one a single olive tree had sprouted.

We explored the region from our base at the Hotel Convento de São Paulo, a cloistered monastery in which the monks' cells have been coverted into charming rooms.

In the town of Evora, farmers in hard-rimmed stetsons and pelicos, the local furryin the main square, the Praca do Giraldo, to do business.

Inside the Sao Francisco church I found the Chapel of Bones, a macabre vault neatly patterned with the mortal remains of some 5,000 monks. We these bones await your bones," read the inscription.

It was not welcoming, but it was yet more evidence that there is plenty of Portugal to discover beyond the fairways.

JEREMY SEAL

Feast day in the forest

are so many other activities on offer that non-golfers certainly won't get bored.

The Quinta do Lago hotel is renowned for its three golf courses (Quinta do Lago. Pinheiros Altos and San Lorenzo), as well as tennis. horse-riding, cycling, an excel-lent health club and birdwatching, while the neighbouring water sports centre provides scuba-diving. parascending, water-skiing,

jet-skiing and fishing. The Riz Formosa National Park, adjoining the Quinta do Lago estate, is a prime site for birdwatchers, but the acres of barren land are possibly best left to the real afficionados. Nonetheless, the information centre at the park is well worth a visit, with its displays of local flora and fauna and an excellent aquarium.

The local fishing villages should be visited, with Olhão particularly worthy of a men-tion for its spotless fish market. Lunch around the coast is both cheap (less than £5) and good if you keep to the fish. particularly the sardines. If you want a real treat, one of the best places for lunch is

A five-minute walk towards the sea, across a rickety bridge from the hotel, Gigi's serves outstanding seafood. It is ex-pensive for the region, but, with wine, the bill is unlikely

to exceed £20 a head. For those wishing to see

oif is undoubtedly the main attraction of the Algarve — but there ture, a small organised trip is strongly advised. Our party of six was guided by Miltours. whose representative, Nuno Valagão, was a revelation. Not only was he popular with the locals everywhere we visited, he led us to Estoi, where the town square was more Rio than Ria Formosa.

We had stumbled - thanks to Nuno - upon the annual "festival of the pines", which marks the start of summer. The Portuguese, friendly though they are, prefer to keep these occasions to themselves, and we were the only tourists revealed that this celebration takes place on the first Sunday: in May each year. We were there on a Tuesday, and it was only half-jokingly that Nune said: "The day varies to keep the tourists away."

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las come to see and a and explore other parts of

ian at an easy pace Weather is at its i

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The procession was led by those on horseback, with the riders wearing traditional black suits with white shirts, while their charges had beautifully braided manes and tails: tied with ribbons and flowers: Horse-drawn carriages and tractors followed, buried in flowers, leaving the town centre amid loud music and singing. The participants em-barked on a 12-kilometre jourfor a day of feasting, before returning after nightfall to light a large bonfire in front of

ROB WRIGHT

■ The author was a guest of : British Airways Holidays and . Orient-Express Hotels.

FACTFILE

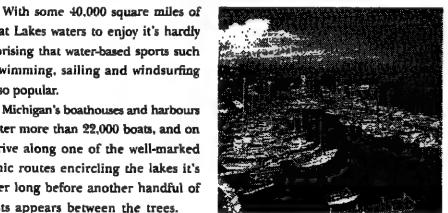
As part of the British Airways Holidays golf programme, three and seven-night special programmes are offered to the Hotel Quinta do Lago. Prices start from £639 for three nights and £898 for seven, and include return flights, B&B, a car and one round of : golf (18 holes) per night's stay at the following courses: Quints do Lago, Pinheiros Altos, VIIa Sol or Vilamoura 1,2,3. Inquiries and reservations: 01293 723131.

■ The five-star Hotel Quinta do Lago is set on a pine-covered hill overlooking the sea. A footbridge eads to miles of beach, with the Ria Formosa bird sanctuary also close at hand. The hotel is only a short historic villages of Faro, Almansil and Olhão. Cost per person sharing a double rooms starts from £80. The hotel offers a series of four and seven-night golf instruction programmes for beginners through to advanced players. Inquiries and reservations through Orient-Express Hotels: 0181-568 8366.

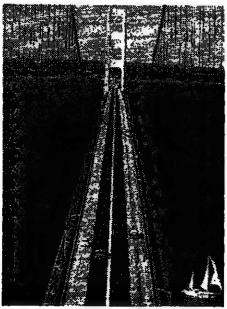
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■ The Magic of Portugal (reservations 0181-741 1181, brochure 01233 211619) offers villa and hotel holidays, city breaks, stays in historic

Da Lapa, a five-star hotel built around an old palace in the city's diplomatic quarter. The Magic of Portugal offers a week's two-centre Quinta do Lago in the Algarve, starting at £908 per person in July, including flights, transfers and four days' car hire. A week's holiday with three nights at a three-star hotel in Lisbon and four nights at the Hotel Convento de São Paulo, with flights and three days' car hire, starts at £539.

TAP Air Portugal (0171-828 0262) flies three times daily to Lisbon from London Heathrow. For much of May, subject to

HOW TO GET TO LISBON AND WHERE TO STAY

not far from the fairy-tale

fortress called Beiem Tower.

Vasco da Gama is said to have

left for his travels. Here, too, is

the monastery of Jeronimo,

the crowning glory of the

country's distinctive Manuel-

ine style. Inside, the walls are

a riot of carved cables, swags

of seaweed, anchors, shells

n the evening, the place to go is the Bairro Alto,

best reached by the

Elevador da Gloria, a

tram-cum-funicular that is an

experience in itself. At the top

the views of the city lights are

impressive, and the splendid

Port Wine Institute just hap-

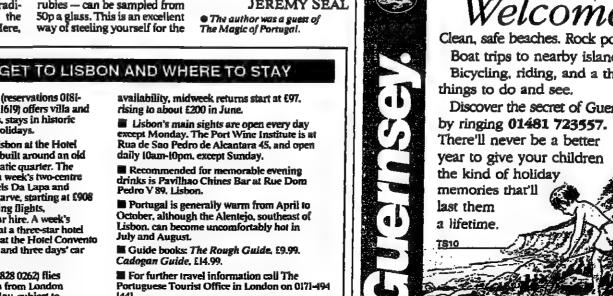
Here the country's entire

range of ports - dry whites,

medium tawnies, sweet young

pens to be directly opposite.

rising to about £200 in June. adas and self-drive holidays. The author stayed in Lisbon at the Hotel daily (Cam-lopm, except Sunday, Recommended for memorable eve



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... the benefits of the Algarve out of season; plus taking the rough with the smooth greens at Estoril

A country all to ourselves

the rough road. There was no house in sight. no signpost, no one to ask the way. "I'm telling you, this is wrong." my wife said in a tone that left no doubt that I, who was navigating, had better get us out of this mess. The sun was hot. The road wound

Who said the Algarve was horribly overdeveloped? Just when you needed directions from a friendly tourist office, or an olde English pub, or a golf club crowded with Brits, all there was was a stony track. "Just keep going,"]

said. The gears crunched.

Then the road suddenly improved, joining a metalled one. We sped up and turned a corner, in front of us the sea sparkled and the sands of Praia da Amoreira, almost empty, stretched into the distance. A small restaurant, Paraiso do Mar (Sea Paradise), with white tables and sun umbrellas, had several tables free. I was saved.

The fried cuttlefish (1,000 escudes or £4.40), was superb; the prawns, grilled mackerel and sardines fresh and cheap; the wine only 600 escudos (£2.70). Under a powder-blue October sky with a temperature of about 80F, and an afternoon stretching ahead, the cold, leaden weather back home seemed much more than a two-hour flight away.

Early autumn is a good time to visit the Algarve. For some decades this southern state of Portugal has cashed in on its guaranteed sun, good beaches and, now, excellent golfing facilities. During the summer months holidaymakers are icked in like sardinhas, but in October it is quieter and the

weather is still reliable. "The good thing about the Algarve," said a holiday rep in an unguarded moment there's nothing to see, so you unflattering summary contains some truth. But there are delightful places if you look.

One of them was our villa, not far from Carvoeiro, on the

FACT FILE

The author stayed at the five-star Quinta 'del Rey villa near Carvoeiro. One week's self-catering costs from £449 per person based on six sharing in spring and autumn. Price includes flights (Gatwick), maid or cleaning service and hire car with unlimited mileage. Additional weeks from £169 per person based on six sharing. Prices for four sharing start at £505 per person. Reservations:

230370). Currency is escudos: 226 to the £. Guidebook: Get to Know the Algarve by Len Port (VIP, £9.95).

Meon Villas (01730

south coast, about midway between Faro, the airport, and the western tip. Quinta 'del Rey (King's Farm) is a modern copy of an old Portuguese farmhouse — spacious and tasteful with a swimming pool (unheated, so chilly in au-tumn), suitable mod cons, and basic food and drink ready for you in the fridge. There were five of us, including two small children. Some days the thought of staying there instead of exploring was too tempting to resist.

southern Algarvian countryside dry and scrubby, but with cork oak, almond, olive trees and cactus in abundance, and vines struggling through the red earth. At sunset the clunk of bells and distant bleating of sheep and goats drift through the quiet. One evening the children rode horses from the nearby riding school along sandy tracks around the neighbourhood.

The red earth lends itself well to the plates, jars, jugs and cups that fill the local potteries. But it is the azulejos

feature of Portugal, emblazoned on the front of several guidebooks, Charming antique ones are worth looking out for. In churches all over the Algarve, blue tiles cover the walls in exotic competition

with brilliant gold carving. The small church in Vila da Bispo, to the west, is one spectacular example, a riot of blue and gold with an elaborately painted ceiling and bright chandeliers. Even more gorgeous is the chapel of San Antonio in Lagos. Through a modest entrance you suddenly find yourself in a golden chamber that glows in the

semi-darkness. Lagos itself — with its leafy square, Praca Gill Eanes, and the bizarre statue of Dom Sebastian, the 16th-century king, as a child in a spaceman's outfit — was the most appealing of the larger towns in the western Algarve. The regional museum there is recommended.

A week was not nearly enough to explore even the western half of the Algarve, let alone to confirm the promising reports of towns like Tavira in the east or the barely explored, wild north east. But the west coast repays a number of trips: the Cape of Saint Vincent, the most southwesterly point of Europe, and nearby agres evoke the early days of Portuguese exploration. The former is where in the

4th century the body of St Vincent, a Spanish priest, was brought in a boat guarded, it is said, by ravens. It became a Christian shrine where for centuries passing boats dipped their sails. The ravens remain and a lighthouse guards the dramatic coastline. Sagres is where Henry the Navigator. an early Renaissance Man, founded his school of

Further up the Atlantic coast, south of Praia da Amoreira, we worked up an appetite walking for miles along the beautiful, descried beach at Bordeira, the scent of pine and herbs mingling with the sait.

Really good food was not



Day on the tiles: azulejos are the most distinctive and ubiquitous feature of Portugal, used to decorate everything from walls to churches

easy to find. Piri-piri (chilli) chicken is worth trying, as are fried prawns with piri-piri and garlic. The best meal of the week was when we ventured east to Olhão. Opposite the large fish market, on Avenida 5 de Outubro, is Restaurante Kinkas where the cataplana (seafood stew with pork, a local speciality) was excellent.

The Algarve sometimes tantalises then disappoints the visitor. Beautifully fresh and well-cooked fish is insulted by having to share a plate with vegetables straight from a school canteen; or a lovely view along a bougainvillealined street to a church is obscured by a heap of old building materials.

But occasionally, unexpectedly, it all comes right. Such as drinking coffee under the plane trees in the pretty hill village of Alte, with the stream flowing by, the sun high, and the verses of the local poet painted on blue and white tile panels at neat intervals along

TIMOTHY RICE ■ The author was a guest of

guese Open. The 6,748-vard

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n AD 1147. Dom Afonso Henriques, the first King of Portugal, conquered Lisbon with the help of Eng-

The English are now returning in expanding numbers but wielding six-irons instead of swords. The nearby Estoril coastline, a half-hour train ride from Lisbon, where the indigenous rich and famous prefer to holiday, is now cottoning on to the jargon of

birdies and eagles. It is cheap, too. Green fees range from £25 to £40 on the Algarve. Around Lisbon, they average £25 — and fairway fanatics do not have to rise with the dawn or queue for eternity to secure a tee time.

Estoril Palacio, an exclusive members club linked with the five-star Hotel Palacio, offers a taxing trail that mean-

Watch birdies on the coast

ders through eucalyptus and

fragrant mimosa. Crossing and recrossing the motorway, which bisects the par-69 splendour, can prove irksome and even traumatic, especially if players take the wrong path and inadvertently end up pulling bag and trolley along the hard shoulder.

The mix of links and wood-land holes of Quinta da Marinha, bordering the Atlantic at Cascais, test the patience of a saint while the par-72 at Arocira, across the Tagus suspension bridge on

the Costa Azul, cuts through dense pine and abundant flora. Many a professional was reduced to dub-thumping frustration during the recent Portuguese Open held there.

Yet the Penha Longa estate at Linho, 33km from the capital, is the Lisbon jewel - a £100 million Japanese-backed "super resort" in the foothills of the Sintra mountains and former venue of the Portu-

course, designed by the American Robert Trent Jones Jr in the grounds of a 14th-century monastery, is only four years old but already has a reput-ation as one of the most spectacular — and difficult in Europe. Its peaceful aura can be

shattered by high-powered testing on the neighbouring Estoril grand prix circuit but usually remains quiet when Penha Longa stages its premier events. Formula One shows great respect for its sporting cousins.

RUSSELL KEMPSON The author was a guest of Longshot Golf Holidays.

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ESTORIL FACT FILE

Seven nights at Hotel Palacio, Estoril, inclusive of flight, car hire and weekday play on hotel course, costs from £459 per person per week. A golf "passport", for five courses in the area, costs £99. Trolley hire is £2 per day, buggy hire is between £15 and £20. Return flights to Lisbon: British Airways (0345 222111) from £99, World Offer, TAP (Air Portugal, 0171-828

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Starting in October we shall be

inaugurating a new flight series direct from London Gatwick to Agra for the Taj Mahal and in the

agra for the 14 manual and in the process avoiding the tedium of travelling to and from Delhi and permitting the traveller to see that

which he has come to see and able

to relax and explore other parts of

Rajasthan at an easy pace and

when the weather is at its most pleasant. Our arrangement includes the international flight to

and from Agra, visits to the Taj Mahal and Red Fort, 7 nights

accommodation at either the 4-star Agra Clarks Shiraz hotel or

alternatively at the 5-star Mughal

Sheraton at a modest supplement.

A variety of optional visits to

kaipur, Fatehpur Sikri, Sikandra,

Bharatpur and Delhi are available.

TRAVEL

Africa: a one-day whitewater-rafting tour through the warm but drenching rapids of the Zambezi

When all's white with the world

water out before we instructor, about to steer five novice whitewater rafters down the first ten rapids below Victoria Falls on the River Zambezi. This season I've flipped three times, and I expect it will happen again soon. Anyone of a nervous disposition should leave."

This announcement, coming as it did after we'd all paid (cash, no cheques) and signed a disclaimer for insurance purposes, was not using. Sobek Expeditions based in California, specialises in whitewater rafting around the world, and is named after a Egyptian river-god who looks like a croc.

you all do exactly what I say, when I say it. Otherwise the boat will go over. If I say 'highside right', you've got to throw all your weight onto the right tube before the wave flips us on our back. If anyone goes overboard we've got a rope, so throw it to them. And if you find yourself in the water, cross your arms across your chest and try to shoot the rapids feet first."

Presumably this was in the hope of getting away with a couple of broken legs rather than being brained on a boulder. Subdued, we set off down the river.

Downstream from the Victoria Falls the Zambezi runs through a narrow gorge with precipitous cliffs falling sheer into the water. We looked from the top and saw the loft Avon inflatables and the antlike figures of the porters. Then we started a slow descent.

Some of us clung nervously to the side and were put to shame by the retired couple from Belfast. "Why are you worrying about falling over just because you're near the edge?" asked the wife. "You don't just suddenly fall over for no reason in everyday life, do you?"



bled on down. The Victoria Falls never look small, even from above. From below they seem vast, and are deafening. But our attention was fixed on the rapids on the river. From a height these look like fastflowing water; as one descends, it becomes clear that this is no mere river — it is a raging torrent. If a tree falls in it is thrown down the river and dashed into toothpicks on the first boulder.

But the descent had strengthened every resolve. Nothing could be worse than going back up. We climbed into a grey rubber dinghy, while John apologised that it was old, well patched and needed regular transfusions of air to keep afloat. His newer boat had burst the previous day. Hoping that the same was not going to happen to this one, we pushed off into a calm patch of water, with John putting his weight into rowing powerfully across the stream.

All too soon we were caught in the current and sucked inexorably through the first rapid. The boat plunged into a vortex of crashing waves as we threw our weight against the tubes lifted by the spray which filled the boat. Like a filled paddling pool our boat lurched towards the sheer rock wall on the far side of the rapids, and rocked as the crew unanimously flinched from the black basalt. "Bail!"



The rapids below the Victoria Falis are strong enough to reduce a fallen tree to toothpicks

shouted the guide, and no one felt any desire to bale out.

Once the boat was clear of water, John decided we needed a crew drill. "Right side," he shouted, and we threw ourselves vigorously to the left. "Left side" - and we all went right. It took a little time for him to explain the difference between right and left, even to the English speakers. Then he started on the Japanese, explaining linguistic details such as "forwards" and "back".

This was just as well, because from there the rapids got bigger and better. The rubber dinghy was thrown around like a floating scrap through rapid after rapid, with frantic bailing on the flat pools between. During the rare periods of relaxation we were shown the eagles' nests, hippo dens and crocodiles, and were regaled with chilling stories of great rafting disasters. Looming ahead was a more immediate threat: rapid

Rapid number nine has never been rafted. We novices were just worried how to stop in time, and so it was a relief to find a pool of tranquillity after the adrenalinerushing slide down number eight.

nce we'd stopped, a new problem presented itself. Although the river treated our boats as it would a dried leaf on its surface, off the water the Avon inflatable, strengthened with a steel frame, was heavy, and manhandling it down over the broken rock banks of the gushing white waters was far from easy. The six of us dragged it on to a slab of basalt, and struggled to lift it to shoulder height.

Then we staggered along like some drunken 12-legged insect over broken rocks and sandy patches. Eventually we reached the steep drop of the main waterfall, and unceremoniously dumped the boat over the side to let the river bounce

Afterwards, it is hard to identify the best rapids. Was it four, the one that has overturned more rafts than any other since the sport was started on the Zambezi 15 years ago? Or seven, that left us gasping for lunch after it spun us in a sickening series of whirlpools between a succession of standing waves stacked proud across the flow of water? But the numbers weren't important. Depending on the river levels, new rapids appear

Mountain Travel Sobek of California (00 1 800 227 2384) has nine-day expeditions for \$1,750 (about £1,175). From the UK, Somak Holidays (0181-423 3000) can arrange whitewater rafting on the Zambezi in conjunction

with some of its African tours. Whitewater rafting is also included in the Exodus 17-day Nepal Discoverer, 15-day Nepal Explorer and 15-day Inca Trail holidays. It is also an optional extra at Victoria Falls in the five-week Southern Africa Overland Expedition. Reservations, 0181-675 5550.

■ Whitewater rafting below

changes. It is highest between

Adventures (00 263 4 732 91); fax

(00 263 4 757 831; fax 00 263 4

757 836) for \$95 (about £64).

Both companies also offer tours of up to five days. For

Sobek in Zambia call 00 2 603 321 423; its parent company,

August and December. Day

Victoria Falls is seasonal

tours can be arranged at

Harare with Frontiers

00 263 4 732 948) for \$85 (about £57), or with Shearwater

because the water level

■ Various airlines fly to Zimbabwe. The author flew from London to Harare with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines (0181-750 9000) via Schipol. Return flights from £751.

Yellow fever and cholera inoculation certificates are required if entering from

to fill and threaten the raft, to be

classified as three-and-a-half, sev-

en-and-three-quarters and so on.

Whichever was worst - or best -

everyone was entranced and deter-

There is no reason to stick to a

one-day ride down the Zambezi.

Seven days of rapids stretch down

from Victoria Falls towards Kariba,

and companies in bordering Zam-

bia and Zimbabwe run tours for

by the holiday operator Sobek,

which prospected the river by air

before trying it out in practice, and

is currently based in Livingstone on

the Zambian side of the Falls. Since

then, other operators have

launched themselves into the lucra-

tive rafting trade on the Zimbabwe

side, starting further downstream.

Whitewater rafting was started

individuals and groups.

mined to repeat the experience.

WHITEWATER RAFTING FACT FILE infected areas. Consult your GP before travelling. Malaria prophylaxis is recommended for the Zambezi

valley. For stays of less than six months British passport. holders do not need a visa

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WORKELLING AF

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for Zimbabwe.

■ Worldwide, whitewater rafting has become one of the fastest growing sports. Other places include Queenstown, South Island, New Zealand. Queenstown is a good place to arrange daytrips or longer safaris. In ... Cairns, Queensland, Australia you can go rafting for a day or let a helicopter drop. you off for a longer ride, with several nights under canvas. Quest Worldwide (0181-547 3322) offers a day's river rafting, through World Heritage rainforest, for £63 per person, departing daily from Cairns. Travelmood (0171-258 0280) offers a day tour

tours are also available. ■ The Australian Tourist Commission provides a factsheet and a faxback service. Using a fax machine, dial 0891-404 404 and key in the pin number 307.

for £59. Five and II-day

If there is enough rain, whitewater rafting is also available in Wales between mid-October and March at £30 per person per day. Contact Activity. Wales (01437,766 888).

Purists may detect a certain hype factor in the introductory safety chat, and resent an early rendezyous immediately followed by aleisurely registration procedure. There are other time-killing techniques to stretch out ten rapids to fill a day tour. There was a time when the one-day tour took in the

first 20 - an easy target. Despite the padding, rafting the Zambezi is an unforgettable experi-erice. Unlike the wilder waters of Canada and Chile, the Zambezi is warm, and so getting drenched is part of the fun. Although California can offer warm water, there is less of it and so the experience is less exuberant. As an introduction to this demanding and exciting sport the Zambezi is unequalled.

JACK BARKER

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The Inca trail to Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas, can be tough at times because of the trail conditions and the altitude, up to 4,000m, but that is part of the enjoyment.

The trail, now painstakingly restored. lasts for four days and because the area is so remote there is no alternative but to camp for three days in the mountains.

Trekkers are accompanied by a guide, porters, cook and helpers and the two-person tents are put up and dismantled by them, so it is camping in style. While the trek is high in places and

by no means a beginner's stroll, it is quite short and within the capacity of anyone who is fit and used to walking. You return to Cuzco on the equally breathtaking train ride along the

Urubamba river, whose rapids provide

you with a day's adrenalin-rich excitement as you whitewater raft along the Sacred Valley DEPARTURES: May 14. June 4 and 18.

July 2 and 16, Aug 6 and 20, Sept 3, Oct 15 and 29. Ask for dossier TPT. PRICE: £1,350-£1,395 plus £52 insurance. nother classic walk on top of the

Aworld is the Mont Blanc Trek, one of the finest walks in Europe. The circuit is a series of paths linking the seven valleys that surround the highest mountain in western Europe. Your route will take you across three borders from France into Switzerland, then into Italy and back to France. For much of

its length it lies on high paths with mag-

nificent views into the valley, sometimes

crossing huge glaciers, often meandering through alpine meadows and picturebook villages.

It is a grade B trek with 10 days of the 15-day trip spent walking at a maximum altitude of 2,500m. You fly from London to Geneva and then drive to Chamonix, Accommodation is camping in good campsites and occasionally in

This holiday is always popular so you will need to book quickly.
DEPARTURES: June 24, July 8 and 22. Aug 12 and 26, Sept 9. PRICE: £580-£595, plus meals package El15 and insurance £22. Ask for dossier

For the seriously adventurous, there is a speciacular top-of-the-world walk to the base camp of K2, the world's second highest peak and one of the most daring to climb. A classic among trekking routes, it is exceptionally wild and remote. The holiday lasts for 23 days with 14 days trekking to a maximum altitude of 4.724m. Six nights are spent in hotels and 15 camping.
DEPARTURE: June 20, July 27, Aug 17.
PRICE: £1,950, plus £58 insurance. Ask for dossier THC.

Send for a grading guide to help you decide which type of trek you are physi-cally capable of from: Exodus Travels. 9 Weir Road, London SW12 OLT.

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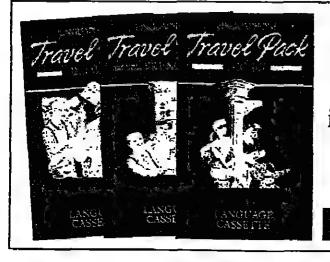
giving you a possible saving on your holiday of £250. You can claim £75 off the

cost of any Exodus holiday with your Times vouchers. Vouchers worth £150 can be used for holidays of 15 days or more and vouchers of £250 on holidays over 22 days, booked before Dec 31, 1996. Full terms and conditions were published in last Monday's paper.

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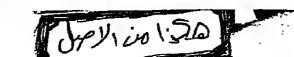


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WEEKEND SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

Weekend breaks in Britain: Cardiff enjoys a renaissance; plus the chocolate and castles of the North

Fruits of Victorian dreams

f a scholarly aristocrat and an eccentric architect were to hatch a scheme to create Cardiff Castle today, they would un-doubtedly be refused planning permission for their grandiose

Reservation of the second

We are fortunate then that such a well-matched pair did come together before the days of planning inquiries and bureaucratic busybodies. The aristocratic patron was the third Marquess of Bute and his collaborator was the brilliant architect, William Burges. Their joint dream in 1865 was to transform Cardiff's centuries-old castle into a medieval marvel.

Bute's father had virtually created modern Cardiff by establishing its dockland, and the young heir to the family fortune was willing to put his money where Burges's muse was. What he bequeathed to succeeding generations might be described as a cross between Disneyland and the Al-

From the bustling city streets, the castle, with its neatly crenelated walls and symmetrical arrow slits, looks like a child's model fort. It stands on the 2,000-year-old site of Roman and Norman fortifications, but its present inspiration comes from the

inside the restored quarters, no surface remains unadorned. No wall lacks its mural and no ceiling is left ungilded. Even the nursery has a frieze depicting characters from the Arabian Nights. Hans Andersen and the broth-

ike the castle, Cardiff itself comes as a pleasing surprise to the unsuspecting visitor.
Considering the industrial heritage of surrounding valleys, it is remarkable that not a colliery winding gear or steel-works chimney interrupts the

skyline. Today's city remains a testa-ment to Victorian enterprise. In 1800 the population of this sleepy market town was 1,800. By 1850 it had reached 30,000: today it is nearing 300,000. tion boom were iron and coal.

A canal linking the iron foundries of Merthyr to Cardiff was opened in 1794 and a railway followed 50 years later. By 1913 Cardiff was the world's biggest coal port. Yet it has always been possible to stand in the centre of the city. oblivious to the existence of docklands only a mile away. The London-Fishguard railway line traditionally served as a physical and social barrier between the bourgeoisie and Butetown, It was a border which the majority of citizens

rarely, if ever, crossed. Uniting the two halves of the divided city is a prime aim of the £2.4 billion Cardiff Bay project, which involves the building of a barrage and the creation of an attractive waterfront. The scheme is going ahead in the face of objections by ecologists who point out that the existing mudflats provide winter feeding grounds for numerous wading birds. Despite the recent setback when the opera house project failed to attract Millennium



money, visitors are already tentatively sampling its sea-

Newcomers such as Techniquest, an educational science centre, and Harry Ramsden's fish restaurant have prudently adapted Victorian constructions. Techniquest is an excitplace for children and adults, packed with hands-on exhibits.

In Cathays Park, Cardiff can boast the finest civic centre in Britain. Begun at the turn of the century, it remains a testimony to Victorian civic pride. Here, on 60 acres of land bought from the third Marquess, is housed an icingsugar confection of buildings. including city and county halls, law courts, museum and university. Portland stone facings and a neo-classical approach ensure unity.

Another Victorian legacy is the city's network of arcades. These glass-vaulted treasure caves are the forerunners of modern shopping precincts. Some, like Castle Arcade, run to three storeys and have walkways linked by bridges.

In Butetown the formidable Coal Exchange building is said to have been the scene of the world's first million-pound deal. It was later destined to be the site of a Welsh parliament until most of the population said: "Thank you, but no thank you." Ebenezer Chapel, which dates from the middle of the last century, was built

> ballast in ships returning from every corner of the world. Though still a cosmopolitan capital, Cardiff is arguably more Welsh today than at any time in living memory. A middle-class revival of interest

from stones brought back as

in the language is fuelled by patriotism and opportunism.

A bonus on a recent visit to hear Bryn Terfel, the worldfamous baritone, sing at St David's Hall was to return to the Park Hotel after midnight

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rdl be every

to find an impromptu opmanfa ganu (singing festival) at full throttle in the lounge bar. The choristers, complete with conductor and pianist, turned out to be members of the selfstyled Terfeliad - a band of largely middle-aged fans who travel the world to support their local hero.

ALAN ROAD

● The author was a guest of the Wales Tourist Board (01222 4999091.

• Where to stay: Marriott Hotel, Mill Lane (01222 399944). B&B f64 single, £78 double; Town House (B&B), 70 Cathedral Road (01222 239399), £39.50

single, E49.50 double. • Where to eat: Quayles, 6-8 Romilly Crescent (01:22 341264); Street (D1222 463334)

 Attractions: Cardiff Castle. Castle Street (01222 \$22083): Techniquest, Stuart Street (01222 475475): National Museum and Gallery, Cathays Park (01222 397951).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

(b) An ancient form of tenure, connected with hunting services. Such service existed on the manors of the Bishop of Durham before the Conquest. The word is from the Danish dreng a boy or servant. Thus there are persons holding in drestgage, who have had to feed a horse and a dog and to go in the great hunt (magna cana) with two harriers and 15 cordons."

KNURK AND SPELL

(a) An old English game resembling trap ball and played with a lourn or wooden ball which is released from a little brass cup at the end of a tongue of steel called a spell or spill. After the player has touched the spring the ball flies into the air and is struck with the ber

PYLADES

(c) Pylades was the friend of This peaceful British Crown Colony in the Caribbean has an average year-round temperature of 80°F. Play Orestes in Homeric legend. Their names have become proverbial for friendship, like Damon and Pythas, and David and Jonathan. Orestes was the son, and Pylades Agamemnon was chopped in his bath. Orestes was evacuated to Pylades father (Strophius), and the two became fast friends. Pylades saisted Orestes in obtaining ven-Clyteronestra, and afterwards married Electra, his chum's sister. BAKHA

(c) The sacred ball of Hermonthis Egypt, an incarnation of Menthu, a personfication of the heat of the sun. The versatile buil changed colour every hour of the

Sweet delights of a Yorkshire tour

count Fairfax of Emley was 150 years dead by the time his bedchamber in York was converted into a public lavatory and his drawing room and salon into a

But, in other ways, he would be happier now. The York Civic Trust bought 18th-century Fairfax House from the city council in 1982. For more than two years the architect Francis Johnson restored the building to its former splendour.

If you visit Fairfax House these days you're meant to feel that His Lordship is still around. The fact that he doesn't materialise turns out to be no great disappointment. The wonderful collection of Georgian furniture and clocks, the beautifully ornate ceilings, ironwork on the great staircase and carved woodwork around the doors are

Fairfax House, built by the Viscount in 1762 for his unmarried daughter Anne, was the Sunday attraction of a Heritage Weekend in Yorkshire, one of a number of such breaks offered throughout the country by Hilton National Hotels and Past Times. Ours, Northern Delights, meant two nights at the Hilton National Leeds Garforth and visits to Harrogate, Ripley Castle and Fairfax House.

Friday night, though, was chocolate night, with a talk from Chantal Coady, a founder in 1991 of the 5,000member Chocolate Society. This body dedicates itself to increasing awareness of finequality chocolate. The talk and subsequent tasting, I suspect, was the main attraction for many of the 16 weekend breakers. The French Vairhona chocolate was handed around in small packets. "Treat it like a fine wine," urged Ms Coady.

It was heaven. Unfortunately Натторате the next day didn't leave such good taste, thanks to the sulphur water I tried, reputedthe strongest in Europe. This, along with other medicipeople to this spa town from the 18th century to the early were 87 springs.
Our destination was the

1842 Royal Pump Room. In the old days people would visit either for a drink — in 1926 the place served 1,500 glasses of the water in one morning -- or for a bath treatment for rheumatism, gout, digestive ail-ments or skin diseases. The water is drawn from the well inside the building, but there's a tap outside if you can't wait until opening time.

However, for a proper drink, give me Benys Café Tearooms any day, where the lump sugar is the golden colour of Cotswold stone although you can expect to pay E7 to £10 for two coffees and

the business was established in 1919 by Frederick Belmont, a young Swiss confectioner, and is famed in these parts. Bettys is in York, Northallerton and likley too. As for Betty, the secret of her identity died with Mr Belmont in 1952

On the way to Ripley John Midgley, our coach driver. pointed out sights of interest: St Peter's School in York where they don't celebrate Guy Fawkes night because the Guy in question went to school there; a viaduct built over the River Wharf at Tadcaster for a railway line that never came: and an effluent treatment plant in the same town which serves three breweries.

Cromwell's in Ripley. The restaurant is owned by Ripley Castle and the Ingilby family, resident on the site for 650 ceiling in the oak-panelled tower room put up in 1603 to commemorate the stay of James VI of Scotland on his way south to become James 1 of England, in the knight's chamber there is a "wagon

horse-drawn wagon. One of the highlights of this weekend was the private guided tours. At Ripley Castle we were put in the hands of Fran Floulkes-Jones, whose animated and humorous walkabout was a delight.

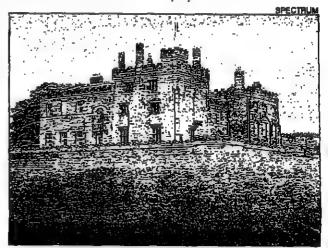
roof", so called because the

wooden structure resembles a

You can get married here, too. The castle has a licence from Harrogate Borough Council to hold civil weddings, an irony that would not be lost on Sir William Ingilby (1020-82), who was so unattractive he had to commission someone to find him a wife.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

• The author was a guest of Hilton National. For a brochure contact: Special Events, Hilton National, Millbuck House, Clarendon Road, Wasford, Herts WD1 IDN 101923 2461641. This features 14 packages, including Conflicts of the English Civil War (May 31-Jun 2). Josiah Wedgwood Uuly 19-211, and William Morris 1834-96 Uune 28-30. Aug 2-4). Prices from £147



The Northern Delights weekend takes in Ripley Castle

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This is a journey to the Himaleyan Kingdoms of Bhutan and Nepal and onward to Tibet to learn more of the magnificent, yet scarcely understood sacred art of Tibet.

Our visit will be all the more memorable due to our good fortune in obtaining permission to visit the Paro Festival in the truly Buddhist Kingdom of Bhutan. Here in the splendour of their ceremonies and traditional costumes we shall have a rare opportunity to see and begin to understand the meaning of libetan religion and art and gain further

insight into their way of life.

DIT 1 Ply London (Garates)

DAY 3 Kathmandu Visit the richly

less. Also visit the great

Buddhist stupa of Swayambhunath.

DRY 4 Kuthermondu Drive to Fulari

he great Temple of Pashupatinath,

and see Durbar Square and the

he hollest of Nepal's shrines.

DAY 6 Thimpu Drive to Bhutan's

splendid collection of ancient

manuscripts and the Traditional

old healing arts are still practised.

Time permitting visit the Handicrafts' Emporium or witness a mask and

folk dance performance by the Royal Academy of Performing Arts.

DAY 7 Thimps: Visit the Tashico

Dzong which houses the Rigney

DAY 8 Yough Drive through the

Tongsa to see the impressive Tongsa

Bhutan's royal family. Stay overnight.

DIEY 9 Thirmou Return to Thirmou

at a leisurely pace, driving through

DAYS 10 & 11 Paro A short other

takes us to Paro to attend various

Rimpung (Paro) Zone, a treasure

house of art and writings. There are

splendid views of the whole valley.

magical countryside. Stay overnight.

School for Monastic Studies.

Ozong, Bhutan's administrative and religious centre on the banks of the over and the historic Simokhi.

DRY 2 Kethmands Arrive

THE MINERARY

Similarly Bhutan, The Land of the Oragon' is hesitantly opening its doors and allowing a strictly limited number of travellers across its borders. Today's visitor is shown a fascinating society which is

little change.

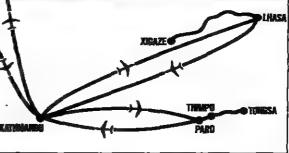
will be quick and comfortable. Yet

time to a land that until recently had seen

For centuries, Tibet has lured Buddhist untouched by the modern world, Isolated, pilgrims and foreigners alike despite its geographical isolation and unmapped like Tibet, by its towering peaks of the Himalayas, its culture and traditions have lands. Our access by air from Kathmandu remained constant for hundreds of years. And in Kathmandu, old and new rest side immediately upon arrival in the heart of by side, the array of Hindu pagodas and Tibet at Lhasa we will have stepped back in Buddist Chaitvas a sculptors dream.

It will be an outstanding journey of appreciation of these mountain neonless their art and the stunning scenery they inhabit. A monumental trip undertaken with a degree of comfort, although some accommodation whilst charming, will be of





visit the Taksang Monastery known on the edge of a sheer cliff DAY 12 Paro-Kathamandu Fly to Kathmandu. Stay 2 nights. Day 13 Kathementa Drive to Bhadgaon and see the Golden Gate, and the Palace of Fifty Five

DAY 14 Kathmandu-Lhasa Fly to Linasa and stay 3 nights.

DAVE 15 & 16 Livers Visits will be

made to the Great Potala Palace, founded in the 7th century and added to and restored through the s. See the decorated halls with their fine wall paintings, the magnificent tunerary pagodas, ritual vessels and porcelain. Also see the 7th century Jo Khang Monastery, at important Pilgramage Centre and the Summer palace.

DAY 17 Xigaze Drive across the wast Yangbainon Plateau and cross

the Brahmapautra River to Xigaze. DAY 18 Xigaze Visit the Tashikumpo Monastery, one of the six great centres of Lamaism. See the Panchem Lamais throne in the Great Hall the 15th century wall paintings and some fine statues. Later see the market and the Shaly Monastery founded in 1040. DAY 19 Lhasa Drive back to Lhasa for a 2 night stay. DAY 20 Linesa A leisurely day visiting a market and the Dreoung

hillside Monastery built in the early 1400's, once the largest and richest tery in the world. DAY 21 Lhasa-Kathmandu Fly to athmandu. Stay overnight. Gatwick) Day flight arriving in the early evening.

1997/1998 DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICES PER PERSON IN TWIN BEDDED ROOM

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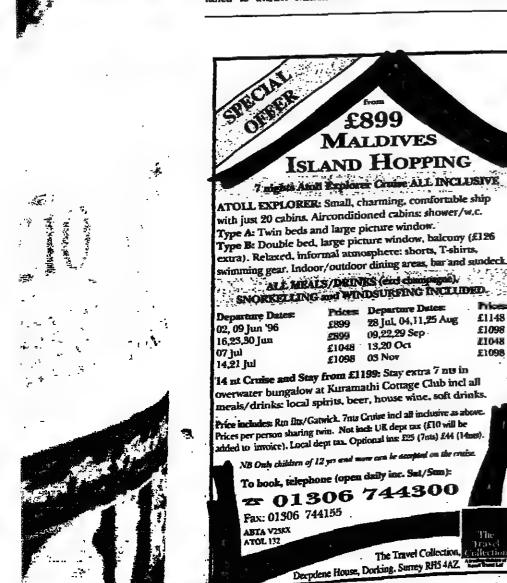
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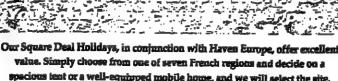
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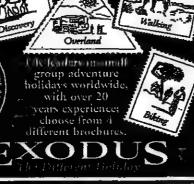
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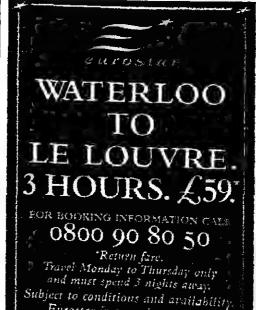
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TRAVEL

France: the ferries are gearing up for Round 2 of the fight against the Chunnel

Who'll rule Channel waves?

he theory was that the Chan-nel Tunnel would swamp ferry competition when it started its car-carrying Le Shuttle service 16 months ago. The four rivals - P&O European Ferries, Stena, Sally Ferries and Hoverspeed - would be reduced to a handful of crossings to cater for tunnel-phobia victims and die-hard traditionalists.

In fact, a price war broke out among the ferry companies. Some return fares for a car and passengers fell by two-thirds to under £100. The average fare dropped by 20 per cent.
This year a fifth competitor has joined the fray. Sea France was conceived after a split with Stena, partners for 30 years, but unable to agree plans in the post-tunnel mar-

ket. Rather than bow out of a

crowded market, each has increased

capacity and become rivals at Dover. So much for the theory. This summer there will be 81 sailings a day from Dover (compared with 66 last year) - with 40 more departures by Le Shuttle at Folkestone and 18 with Sally from Ramsgate.

On average, there will be one departure every ten minutes 24 hours a day as the six rivals, together with Brittany Ferries in the west, fight for a share of the 27 million passengers.

Sea France, which has spent £5 million renovating three ships, ex-pects to lose money this year. But it has set itself an ambitious target of 2.7 million passengers by 1997 and is lauding its French ownership to distinguish itself from the pack. An on-board bakery produces 1,200 baguettes, croissants and pain-auchocolat daily. A consultant French chef will help produce different dishes; present offerings include confit de canard and lamb kebabs, alongside traditional British fare.

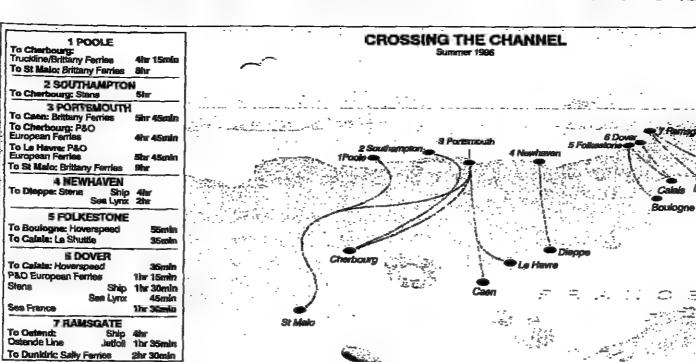
"We want to get away from the burger mentality that has dominated the Channel," says Robin Wilkins, the managing director. "If we had been just another ferry company we wouldn't last six months."

It is a moot point whether the British, who account for 70 per cent of the cross-Channel market, will consider cuisine when choosing between one steel hull and another.

Other initiatives include Hoverspeed offering free newspapers and a windscreen wash this summer, Stena introducing a fast ferry at Dover and Sally planning one from Ramsgate.

But fares and terminal and onboard shopping are more motivating

factors, along with ferry crossing



times and driving distance to the final

Dover and Folkestone take 80 per cent of all cross-Channel business, and the effect of a price and duty-free war in 1995 attracted large numbers to forsake more convenient crossings and drive to Kent.

Brittany Ferries, operating from ports in Hampshire. Dorset and Devon, was worst hit, losing \$10 million. It has hit back in 1996. matching prices to Cherbourg and Caen with those from Dover.

P&O copied the tactic on routes from Portsmouth to Le Havre and Cherbourg. The exercise has had a marked effect, making peak prices cheaper — but hugely inflating others

THERE is little difference in the

prices quoted by ferry companies

Friday or Saturday daytime depar-

tures during the school summer

holidays, when P&O and Brittany

Ferries charge £339 return for a car

and occupants on routes to Calais.

Cherbourg, Le Havre or Caen.

Stena Line, too, has a common

pricing policy on its routes to Calais, Dieppe and Cherbourg of

E326 return, with £10 supplements

The costliest crossings are the

in their 1996 brochures.

outside school holidays, Families travelling to Normandy and Brittany on Saturday afternoons during the school holidays make the biggest savings, with prices falling from £359 last year to £225.

Worst off are couples taking morning or overnight departures in the summer outside the six-week school break, with fares rising by as much as 50 per cent. The fare on Britanny Ferries from Poole to Cherbourg in June rises from £172 to £257 for a couple and a car.

Another effect of the tunnel is bound to have more consequences for ferries: over-capacity. This clearly cannot continue and there is unlikely to be the same choice in 1997.

FARE DEALS

on the fast catamarans. Other peak

season prices are: Sally Ferries,

£310 (Dunkirk); Sea France, £320

(Calais); Hoverspeed, £327 (Calais, £271 Boulogne); Le Shuttle £328.

half-price. But several offers on

day trips, short breaks and five-day

tickets are offered, usually for

travel by the end of June. All

companies offer hefty discounts

Five-day returns are generally

demands more investment, and conventional ferries will have to be

Prowing.

adapted to meet new safety requirements. The day-trip business, handy for filling empty ships in winter, was down 30 per cent this year. French companies are suffering the same fall in summer holiday bookings, mainly because of the strength of the franc.

While the number of people cross-

ing the Channel grew by 7 per cent

last year, only two ferry companies made a profit. And the problems are

The trend towards fast ferries

With duty-free shopping due to be scrapped in 1999 the ferries face a further loss of income. P&O, which saw profits tumble by a quarter last

include Eurodrive (0181-324 4040) and Driveline Europe (01707 660011). Ferry Plus (0181-680 4400) is an outlet for Stena.

through selected outlets. These

● Details of ferry bargains are published in The Times Travel Naws pages every Thursday.

 PSO (0990 980980). Stena (0990 707070). Sally (0990 595522). Hoverspeed (01304 240241). Sea France (01304 20-1204). Brittany (0990 .360360). Le Shuttle (0990.353535).

notes in his Paris diary in the

able here, and the Russians

today, the French say, are the

sians in Paris by 1861 that they

built their own cathedral-

church, St Alexandre Nevsky.

There were so many Rus-

English of 1830."

year, gets 35 per cent of its revenue from duty-frees. In the meantime, it is losing duty-free business to le Shuttle, which has cut 66 per cent off high-street prices, extended its shopping areas at Folkestone and Calais, and is now selling £500,000 worth of goods

each week. Is the answer another price war? Don't be surprised if it is. While P&O is holding its nerve, the other main players, Stena and le Shuttle, are taking pot shots in a skirmish that could precede renewed battle.

Le Shuttle has extended its advance booking period to the end of April, knocking 20 per cent off summer prices. Stena, meanwhile, has cut prices by up to 40 per cent for travel The ferries are banking on long-term growth in the market and a

levelling off of demand for le Shuttle to cement their future. P&O and Stena can also be

expected to renew talks on cooperation, given government clearance. But there is more to come in the short term.

It was Brittany Ferries that cracked first last spring, reducing prices on all summer crossings to £100 and forcing rivals to follow. The same may be expected this year.

STEVE KEENAN

domes are worth a visit, and

the splendid A La Ville de Petrograd food shop is next

door to the church, offering

KATE MUIR

caviar, borscht and blinis.

• "Les Russes à Paris au XIXe Siècie" is at the Musée

Nevsky, 12 Rue Daru, 8th. A La

Carnavalet, 29 Rue de Sévigné, 3rd arrondisse

· Church St Alexandre

Rural walks around Slovenija

TRAVEL TIPS

SLOVENIAN FARMHOUSES

FARMHOUSES in the winegrowing regions of Stajerska in the newly independent republic of Slovenija, well located for walking and climbing. can be rented from specialist company Slovenija Pursuits (01763 852646).

A week's stay costs between E325 and £333 including flights and B&B.

CULTURAL KRAKOW

KRAKOW looks like joining Prague and Budapest as a topselling Central European city destination. It was, until the 16th century, the Polish capital, and its medieval, baroque and Renaissance treasures, unlike those of Warsaw, are largely untouched.

City specialists Cresta (016)-927 7000) offers two nights there for £261 B&B; a twocentre break combining Krakow with Warsaw with two nights in each city, and a two-



An army officer in Warsaw

and-a-half-hour train journey between them costs £355.

SWANNING FAR

SWAN Hellenic's new ship, Minerva, departs from Genoa on her maiden voyage on April 19 on a 15-day cruise of Italian and Greek sites. The 12,000-tonne vessel, formerly a military ship built in Odessa the much-loved Orpheus, the refitted former Irish ferry that had explored every corner of the Mediterranean on its classical cruises accompanied by

guest lecturers. Minerva arrives in the port of London on June 7 for her official naming ceremony before leaving on her first cruise around the British Isles (1)

days from £1.840). Swan Hellenic (0171-800 2200) has also introduced winter cruises to the Far East, the Gulf and Indian Ocean, but has retained its non-tipping

DISCOUNT PEKING

FROM June 2 to July 18. Air China offers £390 non-stop return flights between Heathrow and Peking, with discounts on regional connecting flights from Leeds, Edinburgh and Glasgow, and in China to Xian and Shanghai. Regent Holidays (0117 921 1711).

FRANC CHALLENGE

THE Louvre now opens free on the first Sunday of each month: the normal Sunday rate is Fr26; weekdays Fr45;

after 3pm Fr26.
Also for visitors, a free map from the French Tourist Office in London (089) 244 123 - 49p per minute between 8am and 6pm, 39p after 6pm) shows offmotorway petrol stations within a mile or so of exits, where fill-ups can be £3 cheaper than motorway petrol stations.

POSH PADS

MANY villas in the Caribbean work out costing less than those in St Tropez, even allowing for the air fares, claims Caribbean Chapters (0171-722 0722), whose new programme of 140 elegant properties in-cludes some with staff, floodlit tennis courts, billiard rooms and even air-conditioned racquet-ball courts.

The four-bedroom Baie Rouge in St Martin costs £3,960 per week for eight holidaymakers in the summer; £6,480 in winter.

EGYPT WARNING

TOURISTS heading for Egypt are being told that they can change their plans if they have fears following Thursday's gun attack in Cairo which left 8 Greek holidaymakers dead. Thomson is offering full refunds for clients booked to travel in the next fortnight who decide to cancel. Abercrombie & Kent is offering to make alternative holiday plans for any clients reluctant to visit Egypt. The Foreign Office is revising its advice but British tourists altogether.

JILL CRAWSHAW



The Russians' long love affair with Paris is highlighted by a prize-winning book, an exhibition and a church

exchanges are celebrated in a

Franco-Russian exhibition.

which opened this month at

the Musée Carnavalet in the

Marais. The exhibition covers

only the 19th century but the

AS LEAVES and lemon sorbets reappear in the Jardin de Luxembourg, a Parisian's thoughts turn to literature more specifically, Russian literature. The book to be seen reading on spring afternoons in the park is Andrei Makine's Le Testament Français.

The author and his bestselling book are equally curious. During the past winter of

discontent, Makine won the Prix Goncourt and the Prix Médicis the equivalent of a double Booker. But what really threw the literati was that Makine. a Russian immigrant, had written his novel in perfect French. This seemed so

INSIDER'S

GUIDE TO

unlikely after only seven years was forced to pretend to the Montmartre and, at 38, dresspublisher Mercure that he

had a translator. French intellectuals were torn between being flattered that an author should abandon his native tongue for theirs and criticising his style and grammar. In the end, the French state welcomed the literary exile: Makine had stoy and Dostoevsky were

story of a Russian boy who has

from his French grandmother, now trapped forgreyness

es like a student in scuffed corduroy jackets and glasses.

Russia's latest export to France in a long line. "For Russians, Paris is the cultural centre of the world," he says. Turgenev came to Paris and swelled around with Dumas, Zola and Flaubert, and Tol-



Emigré basks in literary sun

ings to diaries, clothes and

photograph of Tsar Nicholas

coming out of the Louvre, and

drawings of the prototype for

the roller coaster, les mont-

agnes Russes, which were all

the rage in the city's pleasure gardens. As Victor de

Imperial" soaps. There is a

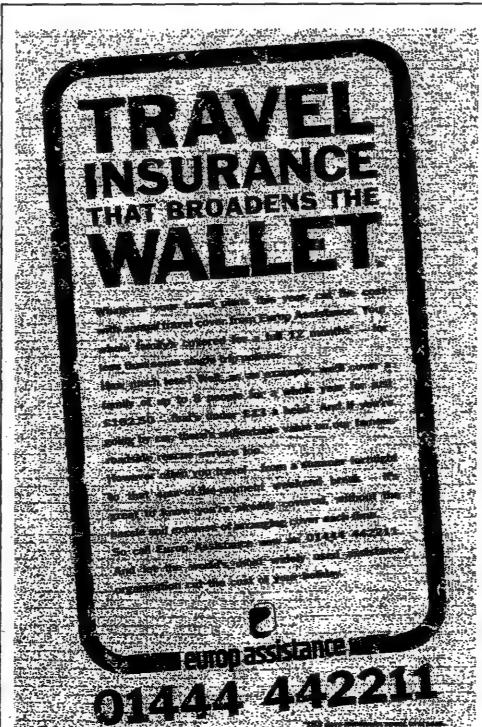
been trying to win French citizenship for years. regular visitors. Such cultural and social

The novel, soon to be published by Sceptre in Britain as The French Testament, is the fantastic daydreams of the

France he has never seen but has heard about

Aside from his lyrical writing Makine conforms to the French ideal of a starving artist. He refuses to move from his

Of course. Makine is merely



CHECK

in at the post office for

YOUR

application for a new

PASSPORT

You fill it in, we'll check it out

Section 1986

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ATURDAY	LADIES				GENTLEMEN		
ENDEZVOUS	ATTRACTIVE professional woesen, forties, divorced, seeks	FNTTY-something slim. 6'5" & quite nice looking. I WLTM you	PRETTY prof. 32 slim. warm. loves the Arts. WLTM slim n/s.	VERY femining Brunette who has a warm & gentle way about here	AFFECTIONATE, sensitive Lon- doner, 52, own international business, well educated, intel-	BIGGLES type: 36, hapdsome. dashing, solvent, etc. seeks a refined, dogant & well-edu-	checting reg but depth egg
ERICANS SEEK friendship. TRAINCE and marriage with rillsh ladies & gentlement All 1981 English Rose/English Cou-	male partner for loving rela- tionship Pb reply the No 2208 AUSTRALIAN Adventuress ath-	if you are 55-55, tall & warm & loving by nature. I live in the Bath area, like cooking, garden- ing, friends & would be happy	Arts grad or similar. London/Herts Box 5272	seeks intelligent sincere home alone male 50-65. Surrey/ Planet Earth. Box No 5173	lectual. Seeks warm, attractive, intelligent, passionate woman to tove and be loved by to dis-	cated female (29-34) to argue with London/South East. Photo appreciated. Box 5135	successful and arrusing 1 (43) in tarnished armour: erally live in central La and enjoy theatre, open
ction. (Dept SR), Romance Suse. 20 Albion Street. Gadalairs. Kent CT10 11.U.	letic Aquarian, prof. employ- ment, late 50's petite, Nih Kont, seeks fellow Bilthe Spirit int.	in share your interests too. Photo to Box No 5190	gent, single, Eastern lady, late 40s WLTM meet cultured, prof. genuine gentlemen interested in	WARM, affectionate - loving - artistic adventurous profes- aional woman. 47. Seeks inter- orting - successful professional	raction. Letter & photo please. Reply to Box No 5329 ALONE ON HOLIDAY? Join a	BORED with London, men. pres- sures? Handsome, eligible coun- try genieman. 62°. trito.	other social ectivities; but hugely enjoy country pu and outdoor activities. I
01843 863322 (24 hrs). As fed on National Television BREAKS singles week-	Please Reply to Box No 5296 A WORLAN of many labels 1	GORGEOUS ternals. Indepen- dent, professional seeks equiva- lent mais. 45-55 yrs with warmth, wit and integrity.	ineatres, people & travel for lesting companionalip, 5283 8.W. HERTS / London lady, styl-	gentleman to love and adore her - share life's adventures- interests - the Arts, books - the-	schooner party in Turkey for a syparitic sundrenched holiday. Lots of eligible then, not enough	made cirilebications of serior and policy and policy and president are policy and president and policy and president are policy are policy are policy and president are policy are policy and president are policy and president are policy are policy and president are policy are policy are policy are policy and president are policy are policy are policy are policy are policy and president are policy	tionate tailish well spoker
and holidays for 36- ione 01823 443 789 to at you are missing!	turn her hand to many things-	Chester/Wrexturn. Please Repty to Box No 5123	ish attractive, charming write- ulate, solvent, wide interests, states similar positive, execus- ful man (894-) for caring lesting	aire - dining in or out - country- side - walking - spoiling my man. Midlands. Box No 5012	ladiest A floating house-party for discerning travellers. Day dreams 0171 631 4436.	ous, chivalrous, spontaneously romantic, totally unintellectual. Needs warm hearted, well adjusted leggy beauty 22-30 to	Please Repty to Box No
ERTS, Berks. Social or discerning singles. arty May 10. Stylish.	Photo please to Bax No 5139	GRAND PRIX lickets to the first tall dark & handsome gentle- man (under 42). Catch? This 52, late 30's petite, toving.	romance. Phone. photo approc. Reply to Box No 5311 SCANDMAVIAN indy. 42, 5'5'.	WARM, extractive, slim n/s caring lady enjoys sports, country pube, restaurants & events.	AMBITIOUS. bright, confident. cultured & petite professional not too much to ask for, is it? is	whick away to settly aboard fast charger. Please reply with photo to Box No. 5164	DARE In care agam. Happi
ambience, Summer Cal- Jaisons 01923 825 606. E living in West Coun-	BEAUTIFUL lady Artist seeks someone of integrity, young, fun and liftles with interesting creative mind - for weekends in	imaginative, generous, capable girl comes with them. Kent based. Photo pise. Box 5187	fair haired with outgoing per- sonality and CSOH, separated with children, big house in	nings in. Seeks similar gentleman (50-85). W London based Photo pise to Box 8213	highly sought efter by a 28 yr old London based executive. A stimulating mind & strength of character are far more impor-	GAM you tame this Lion in sheep's clothing? Lion - sporty successfut prof Londoner (45)	strare pleasures including afre, good food, fine wises
uth Wales, West Mid- wishing to "Stopover". Civilised Social Groups	the Cotswoods and trips abroad. Please reply to Box No 5304 BLONDE 35 year old honey	HANDSOME, tall accomplished lover. a professional man (30- 45; with personality, brains &	Surrey, own cer. N/S loves gar- gening, dancing, wining & dis- eng, travelling and lots more. Locking for tall professional	WATERLOVING, scube diving Piecess - she rides as well WI.TM attractive fix intelligent. kind & fun loving counter.	tani than your physical attributes. Box No 5243 AMERICAN Executive LA area.	with GSOH, lots of TLC and passion. Lighter - thim, graphi- ous N/S. 32-42 sports lady with kiding for travel. Interested	& France, country house & country walks, cli- music, Radio 4 & above all
for the professionals + Unattached. Speak 1" or Jan 01495 75 53 ly noon to 7pm Fax	whose school girl charm hides womanly mischlef. seeks hunky tooether male to match	wit for sensuous Libran career girl. Kent/ London. Please reply with photo to Box No 5198	male under 50 in Surrey/ London area Photo & phone no, please to Box No 5323	part(38-48). W.London based but loves coolic places. Photo please. Rapty to Box No 5179	 grown children seeks N/S. very attractive, stim, rementic woman 39-55 willing rejocate 	in this and lots more, then reply with photo to Box No 5112 CARDIFF professional, 42, n/s.	humour, tactile pleasur lary Sunday mornings. La based with Elizabethan
789046 I UVING In West Coun-	her good looks, business sense, independence and tole de vivre. Photo please. Loedy. N. West. Reply to Box No 5303	HAS II all but the partner. If you are 30-45, unpretentious, hand- some, streets, loving & giving.	SLIM (eminine retired lawyer youthful stylish appearance seeks warm caring relationship	WEST COUNTRY, Exeter. Taunion. Plymouth. Way- mouth. Torquay, call Close	USA. Please be very intelligent. educated. Outgoing and fun. Please Rapty to Box No 5245	6' tall, athletic build, enthusias- ire about fitness, music and travel seeks sursetive profes-	house near the Tham Bucks/Berks. Are you e spirit, 30-45, intuitively
th Wales, West Mid- emblas to "ampower". Ovilland Second Crosses for the professionals a lineturized Smale	BORN again single & carefree Slim, blonde, articulate gradu- ste, business woman 40's.	enjoy keeping fit, countryside, animais & definitely children, then this attractive, slim, tradi- tional, homeloving, blonde (36)	personable cultured 60+ man of integrity (therat outlook & humour. Photo? Box No 5178	WEST LONDON, attractive n/3	AMERICAN Psychologist. 6'. N/S happy in Highgate, seeks lady 50's for walks, music, dis- log Boto being Box No 5054	Reply to Bex No 5062	retained the innocease to to care egain. Bespoke le
+ Unettached. Speak of Jan 01495 78 63 noon to 7pm Fax 59046	Bucks. Attractive & fortifilms. Enjoys people, conversation. humour, the Arts, travel, food.	would like to hear from you with photo & letter. London/. Home Counties. Box 5147	SLift independent brunstle flate - tiuries), London area seeks / 35- 46) professional gent, fun pos remance. Box No 5006	ooing, such with many varied interests steks like minded 40ish tall gent, to share tic, fun. laughter/remance. Letter &	AMMABLE professional man, 47. 5'9". many interests including	Essex. Unique personal service. special offer spring. Free details. Eithe introductions 01798 747099, open w/ends.	DOCTOR early 40s. b caring & prescribble (Labord), no test interests in
80 exclusive, it's u'd expect to most that special. Telephone	log fires. Missing a tail, successful man for mutual cherishing. Photo plegge. Box 5209 CAMBRIDGE area. A stylish	HUMOROUS, spontaneous, polite brunette (39). Kent based. footloose looking to spend serious time with caring, romanite.	SLIM professional lady, warm, caring, seeks company of intelligent, reporsible, humorous man 45-55. London/SE. Please	photo appre. Box No 5267 WEST MIDLANDS, Stratford. Coventry, Leunington, why	books. IBUSIC. bravel, steks lively, withy wassen partner. N London based. Box No 8008	CHINESE/Korean girl under 35 sought by 37 yr old man for long term shift. I am ball, shy. Y	wine, tennis & travel. W younger lady. Photo as ated. Reply to Box No 5
PVO - Christian and egister for the upat-	francophile searly fifties). diverse cultural interests, enjoy sharing wine and a meet with	sensuous professional man (36- 45). Loves sports, travel etc. Photo piesse to Box No 5153	SMART, buscon, good looking	write to one lady, be in compet- tion with many other men, when one phone call reverses the odds in your favour and	ARE you a genuinely good look- ing, glamorous, sophisticated feminine lady under 40 years who enjoys dining out, theatre	good job. GSOH, PhD. Photo please. Reply to Box No 5068	EASYGOING tall profess male, 35, W. London, V interests WLTM stadior for
ing to connect with pecial. Telephone 151	friends. Wi.TM a n/s. fair minded and solvent man of integrity. who is looking to expand his life: proferably	INTERSELY Individual introduc- tions in London with Close Encounters - call See today	blonde (30) with down to earth 90H. seeks colvent) man for football matches, holidows and reality. North West. Please	puts you in touch with hun- dreds of ladies in your local area. Open w/ends. call now. Freehome 0500 003445. File	who enjoys dining out, theatre & travel. Then a good looking, successful, generous bushess- man with strong personality. aged 45, who finds himself unexpectedly alone, WLTM	CHRISTIAN, mid 30s, single, attractive, Oxforidge, Director of City firm, SOH, wide interests including the country, current	Picese write to Box No i
nuts single Christians ith each other. Don't	6'10" or more. No guits. no gioryno girl! Box No 5057 CELTIC. hazel eyed, attractive,	LET'S face the truth, however	SOUGHT for gorgeous god-	Introductions.	unexpectedly alone, WLTM you for a fun one to one rela- tionship. Photo & tel number appreciated. Box No 5249	including the country, current affairs & music would like to meet a caring, educated, profes- sional woman, who ultimately seeks commitment. Letter &	indulge in travel & food independent warm ferm share adventures. Box 6
hat special someone been such fun. Per- binner Parties. Shoot- Skilne. The Thesire	intelligent, warm, N/S lady, divorced 50tsh WLTM profes- sional gentleman with charisma à intellect for vary sincere rela- tionables. Millionde Bhyte	loving arm, empainy and a sweet face on the pillow, life is unfulfilled. I need a man supplying loss of kindness, intelli-	integrity/understanding (40- 55ish), pref. widower, Reward. eligible, educated, loyal, stun- ning, vivacious, discerning mid-	GENTLEMEN	ARTICULATE, emygoing,	photo please. London/ Home Counties. Ben No. 5015 CHRISTIAN professional centle-	famional attractive deri- sime easy going, finar secure, 60, Statter, E
Skiling. The Theatre, ad Concerts, Circles, il Events Company for copie. Tel. 0181 426	tionship Midlanda. Photo please to Box No 5126 CHARMING London Lady. alim. Jewish. educated, sophisticated	gence, humour, and a desire to love and be loved in return. I'm attractive, no disappointment theret Late 40's, 5'6", single, no	friends: View marriage/start family. Photo pise. Box 5077	A BERKS/London based, caring, eighte, middle aged profes- sional seeks "Ms Right", idealy 30-45, Photo essential to ensure	seeks educated, sincere, pes- sionate, stylish ledy (40°a) for shared interests in wining/din- ing, travel, theatre, music &	man. Cambridge based. Div- orcod. age 55. slim. 5°7". active & well drussed. Enjoys classical music & swimming. Seeks affec-	healthy lifestyle, golf, arts, sussay climes. Seekin lier lady, around 50's, for
VEEKENDS plus our	Jewish, educated, sophisticated seeks super, successful gent, 40's for TLC, Box 4522 CHELMSFORD, Brentwood,	you are truly ready to take your chance again - as I am to write to me. You never know! Photo	SPORTY, thirty-something, Segitarian seeks 'got a life' male. 37-44 with VGSOH Photo appreciated. Box 5223	repty. Boox No. 5162 A CONUNDRUM? If I'm matified in setting my sights so high. why am I advertising here?	walking the fells. Photo essen- tial. London/SE. Box No 6292 ASIAN Doctor. 34. seeks inde-	tionate, sitm. Christian profes- sional lady, 40-50 years old for	photos/ letters. Box No d
from the Wayside O1420 722 833 Sits & Dorset - For a	Essex, Unique personal service, special offer spring. Free details. Elite introductions 01708 747099, open w/ends.	please. London/Home Counties. Pise Reply to Box No 5070 LICHFIELD, Stourbridge. Wal-	STARTING OVER Altractive brunstle. 44. professional galova filmess, food, France.	am frequently told I'm very good-looking (which always surprises me), six two. 185 lbs.	pendent busy professional female for friendship. Enjoys wine and diving out besides travelling London & South-East	possible, to Box No 5172 CHRISTIAN man, 36, city	creative. loyal and wise. sated in art. music. theatr travel, wishes to meet a
O1962 860600 ESSEX, Sparkling Candlett dimpers	CHESHIRE attractive person of color seeks tall, slim, under- standing sentteman, N/S, 35-	sall, Dudley. Alonet Know the feeling, one phone call could change your life and westeends. We have hundreds of ladies.	films, friends, WLTM kind N/S fun-joving man, SW London, Please reply to Box No 8269	triathion fit, into crazy sports. spirifually and emotionally open, cerebral a world travel-	Letter & photo to Box No 5258 ASSERTIVE bachelor (recycled) experienced knight extant, will-	church, music, travel, wins/ dine, countryside, Seeks lady to love and charish. Box No 5166	gradunte - professional from Asia, America or E who loves England and
Across-The-Room, 12742 (free brochure), That educated ladies,	Photo appreciated Box 5204 CLASSY beautiful tail silm	open w/ends. 01543 450911 Eine introductions	STARTING OVER unimpressed with 'singles scene' this thirty-something, attractive blonde fun, fit & sporty WLTM tendent and SW London	ler. successful Company Direc- ter with the best job in the world. Are you 25 to 33, noth- ing less than sturning the really howest super-utits. If it less	ing rescue offing but submissive lady, 38/48 within charlet ride of London. Box No 5103	CREATIVE professional man. successful Oxforidge graduate (56), no ties, active and ener-	Photo essential Box No EXILED in paradise, che
od personally to you, prochure also videos, roductions Estab. 1985 89 860 880 (anytime)	blands prof woman, loving. lively, fun. late 40's. Oxon. WLTM cultured, intelligent	tigent lady; seeks male compan- ton aged 30 - 49 My interests music, cinema, travel, country.	bused. Photo pise to Box 5282	homesti super-uitra fil. love sports, t. silm, long legs, with a recor sharp hund, a wit is match and a love of stretching	A 6' tall professional solvent male. It. 29. with GSOH is seeking an attractive sitm leave 20.35 for fur triestable and	getic. Interests include classical pussic, travel, theatre, erts gen- erally, socialising, gardening, sport, and keeping fit. Busy life-	slim, dark hair, blue eyes, correspond with warm, a tive, witty woman, land
Nexus members are ed people in your area onwide who wish to	costoPoliTAN blonde. slim. attractive, gristic & caring	eide. East/West Midlands, Please reply to Box No 5002 LOOKING for tove Frunch Anglophile woman, ball, attrac-	signal lady graduate, public school, interests music, theatre, travel, bands, sailing, swim- ming WLTM similar gentleman	yourself physically and spiri- maily? if you are. It could be worth a letter and a picture (essential). I hope we'll solve the	20.35 for fun friendship and ramance? Box No 8060 BEATRICE (30-40) sought by Benedick (37). Tell me thy eigr.	style, but now reformed works- holic. Would like to north articulate and intelligent warm- hearted professional/academic	weekends in French v near Airs & Lake Or Photo please Box No 52
their horizons by not eting others socially, walks, holidays, week, as etc.; but also indi-	WLTM cultured sensitive N/9 male (50-60). E.Anglia based. Piso Repty to Box No 5200	tive, stylish, feminine, intelli- gent, cultured & caring, seeks; tall, fit, successful & unconven-	55-62. London & Southeast. Photo apprec. Box No 5207 SUDDENLY single, vivacious,	Invitery Carpe diem, London/Country, Box No 8265	hai summer shall not (all. Tell me also that you share interests like walking, music, books and	woman, for caring relationship, and marriage if compatible; preferably willing to consider	GENEROUS London based old enjoys theatre, musk tog, good wine, cruise ho WLTM Exeminded lad
Not a dating service of bureau. Ring for the (012374) 71794,		based. Photo appr Box 5101 LOVE interesting holidays & out-	Jewish redhead, with sense of figst, whose interests include missis, books, people & travel, fiseks like minded friend, com-	AFFABLE professional male WLTM Miss Right. Pm 31. 6' (all. N/5 & London based. You are 20-36, humorous, smart. ambitious yet thoughtful and	reply to Box 5119 BEEN the playboy, kept the toys,	starting or extending a family, Please reply to Box No 5004 DERBY. Burton-on-Trent, Matiocit. Alone! Know the feet-	share these & other pu with view to comple rewarding relationship
67 6328 (0113) (01869) 338801. 1 1090, (01202) 01286) 831599 Or	esta vida de sol y nombra en cualquier parte del mundo Box No 6224	ings but no fun alone. Attractive widow, late 60's, seeks compen- ion. Midlands. Box No 4988	panion, lover or husband (50- 60) with joie de vivre, London/ Home Countles Box No 5320	imprious yet indugnitui and jooking for a man to share your life and cook for your, ALWP answered, Reply Box No 5325	time to stop being one of the boys. Attractive, well preserved inot pickleds. 40%, N/S, very selvent director of lat on	ing, one phone call could change your life and weekends.	GENTLEMAN of the Old S secies a special lady.
TY7 Knightsbridge April, Music danc-	DERBY, Burton-on-Trent. Matieck, Alone! Know the feel- ing, one phone call could change your life and wrekends.	MAID MARIAN (auburn heired, & taithful dog, starting new life without "Robin" seeks lail, good looking N/S male with CSOH, 35-40 to entoy an out-	SUFFOLK/ESSEX: Single white famale, attractive, fun-loving, 30's, seeks confident, successful, unatteched man, 36-45, to	ALTERNATIVE health practition per. good natured and good looking. 5'10". forty and Di.	gsoH, chloys town & country pursuits. WLTM silm, aftraction, intelligent tactile lady, 30°s	open w/ends. 01623 8255502 Elite introductions DORSET. Bournemouth. New Societ Introductions	spoken. Intelligent & lovir is N/S businesman, 60%, ests the Arts. theekre, co- eide. travel & bol Herefordsture. Sep No 5
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. If you are	E.ANGLIA Creative & articulate (emale, 50, positive, yet warm	at Close Encounters Cardiff. Bristol, Bath. Cheltenham. Swindon, Salisbury. Oxford. Reading, London, Kant & Sus-	OSOH, WITM an aftractive Jai Sikh with similar qualities. Photo planse to Box No 5167	RENDEZVOUS			affectionate, passionate, ous, hotblooded, into soft hymetife, esting qui,
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or conton bleu	ELEGANT blue eyed blonds. 40's sizm, WLTM a genuine &	Know the feeting, one phone rall route change your We and weekends. We have hundreds	life & needs refined, kind, pro- fessional man to lose her. Photo please to Sox No 5265	Mann	Chres mes	A file of cful letters	hug and cuddle Rewards with L'amour toutours. A divorced prof Dir S. Lo N. Sorrey, N Sussex.
N 01634 868688 v chat.	tive full of humour & lot.	of ladies, open w/ends, 0118 937 7171 Elite Introductions OR YOU COULD CALLMike at Close Encounters for SW	based, beautiful, mdependant, successful, non-smoker, seeks spatiached, tall 1.80m. good-	Oara (out I and	a wall full	Reply to Box No 5230
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ATE, educated pro-	ous soulmate, 40+. Divorced, 2 boys, own business I enjoy all	PREYTY, professional female graduale 34 weeks inbullgent, handsome carring male 30-40 for somble remance. Charlotte.	warm. Good sports. Arts & tracef. Willing to relocate USA Please Repty to Box No 3069 222mm Walte upt Close Encoun-	01753-8	30350	diful friendships hare" Hanr Han	sociable, gentle & hum with many intents. I se attractive intelligent worm friendship, tenderness, ful
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sh. attractive, stylish to appreciate music. country & town, and humans, brilliant con-	PRSTY blue eyed brunette (31), CSOH, sporty, fun to be with Seess solvent urban/man of the	ABUNDANCE OF STUNNING shortage of sice m	LADIES —	611	KATHARINE ALLEN SHABIBBER 1960 Incorporating	"The Nation's Premier Matchmaker"	· AT THE MAN TO A
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the Top? Looking for a companion for bud-	FINALE 38, staff nurse, black, 8'9", blological clock ticking,	has some autor chaps already snapped up very quickly so we near. Personal introductions an Electrical for attractive, profession	atwentys need.	2 lst Century Men together snough to wine & dims with elegant ladies at Londons top restaurants.	"Made to measury" S/Telegraph "Less rendem more private" Client	personal service stace 1966. For (no double in strains)	SOUTHWEST
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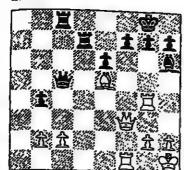
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GAMES

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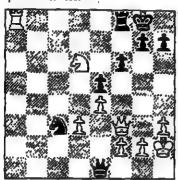
by Raymond Keene

MY DAILY Winning Move puzzles continue to stimulate intense read-



I published this position, from the game Chandler-Speelman, Hastings 1990, on December 29. The given solution was I Qfo!, threatening Rxg7+ and Qxh6. Black was forced to try I ... Kh8 2 Rxg7 Qxe5. which left him with a lost game.
Peter Wylie of Devon suggests 1

. Kf8 as a better attempt to repulse the anack. However, after 1 Ql6 Kf8 2 Qxe6. White has regained his pawn with a very strong initiative. Yet 1 ... Kf8 is as good as Speelman's defence, which committed him to an unsatisfactory



The next position is from the game Varga-Lengyel, Hungary 1995. The given solution was | Qf5! Rxa8 (there is nothing better) 2 Qe6+ Kh8 3 Nf7+ Kg8 4 Nh6+ Kh8 5 Qg8+! Rxg8 6 Nf7 checkmate. Also full marks for 1 Qg4 which leads to a

D.Sugden of Halifax points out that White has another attractive way to win with I Oh5! Rxa8 2 Of7+ Kh8 3 Ne8! and mate follows. Well

By Raymond Keene

Alekhine - West, Portsmouth

Alekhine's kingside assault has

clude his attack in powerful style?

Send your answers on a post-

card to The Times, 1 Pennington

Street, London El 9XN. The first

three correct answers drawn on

Thursday will win a British

Chess Magazine publication. The

answer will be published next

Last week's solution: 1 Qxh7+

White to play.

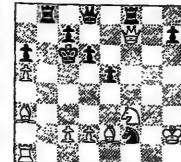
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position is from the game

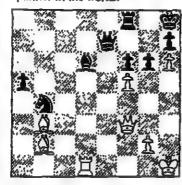
left the black pieces in some 8 disarray. How did he now con-

WINNING MOVE

sported! In fact, Mr Sugden's suggestion is slightly faster than the line found in the game.



This position is from a game ! played in a simultaneous display in 1995. My opponent (Black) was Philip Bond. How does White exploit the exposure of black's king to force a quick mate? The solution is 1 Nxe5+! dxe5 2 Qc4+ Kd7 (2... Kb7 3 Qxa6 mate) 3 Qd5+ Kc8 4 Bxa6+ Rb7 5 Qxb7+ Kd7 6 Qd5+ and mate follows. Mr Mercado of Essex suggests a swifter mate with 2 Bf3+ Kb5 3 Qb3+ and mate next move. However, 2 . . . e4 throws a spanner in the works.



This position was published on December 27. It is from the game Speelman-Kosten, Hastings 1990. White won with 1 Rxd6 Qxd6 2 Qb7 and if 2 . . . Rg7. 3 Qf7 wins. Mr Shaw of London suggests that Black could try ! . . . Qel+ 2 Kh2 Qh4+. The ideas are: 3 Kg1 Qel+ 4 Qfl Qe3+ and ... Qxb3, or 3 Qh3 Qf4+ and ... Qxd6. This is a good try but unfortunately in the latter variation White can play 3 Qh3 Qf4+ 4 Qg3, protecting the rook on do and remaining a piece ahead.

Last week's winners: R. Gedling,

Epsom, Surrey; C. Collier, Box,

Wiltshire; S.A. Osborn, Dover,

abcde fgh

PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, (right). The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption (105) Weekend Games Page, The Times, | Pennington Street, London El 9XN

The editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, April 24





"I know you cannot arrest him, but can you take us into protective custody

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Dr G. Dunger of Eastleigh, Hampshire

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

DRENGAGE . A kind of plum b. Hunting tenure

c. A gauntlet KNURR AND SPELL

a. A ball game b. German story-tellers c. Bread and cheese

PYLADES a. Ceremonial gates

b. Haemorrhoids c. A faithful friend BAKHA

a. A tip b. A patron c. A bull

Answers on page 21

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE British Bridge League has selected Paul, Jason and Justin Hackett, Ian Monachan, Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson to represent Great Britain at the 1996 Olympiad in Greece.

The six made up the team that convincingly won the BBL's 1996 Premier League. It is the first time that three members of the same family have played on any major international bridge team, and it is also the first time a "sponsor" has been selected for Great Britain -Ian Monachan pays the other five to play with him in the Premier League. I'm afraid I don't know how much.

It is extraordinary how often it proves to be correct to bid Four Spades on quite modest hands when opponents have pre-empted and/or been raised to Four Hearts. This example is from the Premier League match between Sowter and

Rosen. +AK932 **984 +J7 410862** *K0J7852 W ₹ 103 Ε ♦ KQ 105432 #AQJ7 **+K84** +QJ1078 PAP * A988 **#53** 4♥ Oble

All Pass

of Three Diamonds was the worst he could hear. If his partner had passed as dealer, the chance that Four Hearts was making would be greater. In practice, East's hand is quite suitable - 10x of hearts removes any problems in the trump suit, and the king of clubs solidifies West's second suit. When this came back to Senior. he followed the principle I men-tioned earlier in the column. Four Spades was only one off. King was

I think it is correct for South to

pass over Three Diamonds — an

immediate Three Spades would

show a rather better hand. King

reasonably decided that his hand was worth Four Hearts, although

note that his partner's opening bid

right to double rather than bid on, although Five Hearts is only beaten on the unlikely lead of a heart. If dummy plays low on the heart, South also has to play low or else there are two entries to dummy to ruff out the ace of diamonds and

cash the king.
How about this one? You are South, holding

◆A8752♥K◆KJ1064**◆**43 and you have to make a decision in this auction (Love-all, teams, dealer Westl.

Another on the same theme: you are vulnerable against non-vulner-

able. Your right-hand opponent deals and opens Four Hearts and

you hold: **◆QJ109876♥64◆K◆**K**8**5 What would you do? I will discuss these two decisions in this column next week.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

WHEN Andreas Whittam Smith, the co-lounder of The Independent, sold his stake in the struggling broadsheet, he had a clear idea of what to do next. In November 1994. together with his son Ben, he set up an electronic-publishing company, Notting Hill. Now, 18 months later, two of the company's first four titles have been released.

Both are dual format for Windows PC or MAC. The Art of Singing is an exploration of the classical singing voice, a title set in an elegant. virtual music academy. Looped samples of angelic singing give the title a good musical backdrop. Awaiting you in some of the locations at the Academy are dressing rooms occupied by such luminaries as soprano Dame Joan Sutherland and bass-baritone John Tomlinson, both of whom were interviewed especially for The Art

of Singing. Elsewhere, seminars are given by Dr Jonathan Miller and, unlikely as it seems, Mozart; in the concert hall you can listen to nearly an hour's worth of performances by Luciano Pavarotti and Maria Callas among other singers, while in the CD-Rom's library you can access a complete glossary of singing terms.
There is an awful lot of traipsing

around the academy to be done to reach your various encounters, lessons, experiments and simple music games. Fortunately, however, the graphics illustrating the academy are spell-bindingly beautiful. The only drawback is the speed - The Art of Singing can be slow and tricky on a 486 PC and should ideally run on a Pentium

machine Less inviting, for all its clean lines, is Noning Hill's International Athletics. Hoping to sell well in the run-up to this year's Olympic Games in Atlanta, this game sees you roaming a sports stadium to track down sporting facts and historical footage. You can also try out your athletic skills in track and field events. Clever as it all is, the endless mouse-clicking required to get you around soon becomes boring and contributes to its

The next titles in Notting Hill's pipeline are Wines, Spirits and Beer, based on last year's Which? Wine Guide and Bloomsbury's World Beer Guide, and The Evolution of Life, focusing on Darwinian theory and DNA.

11

impenetrability.

by Tim Wapshott



Elegant interiors in The Art of Singing

Notting Hill, despite the lacklustre appeal of International Athletics, is making an impressive start with sufficient stylish trickery for it to be taken seriously in the years to

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

Random shooting can produce random photos, but sometimes conclusions.
One place to find royal blood blackening.
Item of little value increased without king before joker turned up.

Unbridled luxury started in fifties moment of

smart guy. George 1 drops three tablets — it could get you

Trumpet sounds organised in farewell thrash

without the heroin. Dry in name, accepting inadequate service and

partaking in idle conversation.
Wife, perhaps, joining in almost half of spouse's

Never celebrated, dangled, headless, wrapped in

Get up, put foot out, get in line and swing. Girl's two articles getting there in France, Parent's brothers, no longer often seen, seem

cheap paper? The reverse.
Goddess with productive power cut short sud-

denly, according to Spenser. It's smart getting in what comes after three Rs.

Lark produced egg. Spots vaguely imagined ailments and snuffs it.

Says taking out always Interrupts sideways move-ments, restricting straps.

Dig out Scottish bear hugging dog with no oxygen

A bird losing its tall on the wing. Way of getting tattooed properly in very short time.

Omament permissible with a missing note put

hanging around dubiously. A state lawyer takes on tax for Indian singer.

Pundits sacrifice first extinct annals. Moved harvests subject to transmutation.

demands for silence.

Bear, small one, English,

Line in comforts and supports.

Educated guy, and 'e dropped out — comes back,

Staying with less violent sports, interplay has at last released its Virtual Snooker title - and it has been well worth the wait. Like Interplay's Virtual Pool, it plays exceedingly well, and you can zoom into or away from the table to ponder your best shots. It boasts a host of fine atmospheric sound effects, such as the crack of the cue and the sinking of a ball into a

Also like Virtual Pool, the game features a tracking toggle to help you to line up perfect shots by showing. with coloured lines, exactly where every ball will go. If bouncing balls off the cushion at the right angle has been your downfall in snooker, then this facility alone will be invaluable in helping to improve your game.

Steve Davis and Ronnie O'Sullivan lend the title their support, with Davis giving snooker lessons. Also included is video footage of the sixtimes world snooker champion's

remarkable 147-point break. Cyberspace Twenty-Three ex-plores the world of great software clangers, typos and howlers. Have

you come across any software mistakes which have amused you or, worse, made your blood boil? To enter the competition, write with details of a goof or nustake that you have spotted in any game or multimedia title, which you should name clearly. Alternatively, just send us your favourite computer

The competition is open to all ages and the three best entries will scoop US Gold software bundles including games Riddle of Master Lu, Chronomaster, Tech War. Comanche vs Werewolf and Johnny Bazookatone, as well as the history of flight reference CD-Rom. Dreams of Flight.

SEND your entries, together with your name, age, address and home telephone number, to Cyberspace Twenty-Three, Computer Games, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. You may also fax entries to us on 0171-729 6791. The competition closes at midnight on Tuesday April 30, and the judges, as usual. will not enter into additional corr-

espondence. "Any man with ambition, integrity — and \$10,000,000 — can start a daily newspaper."

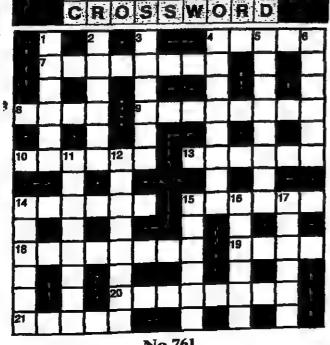
Henry Morgan (1950).

Kent.

7

6

2



No 761

DOWN

1 Threaten (b)

3 Steel beam (6)

ly (1,2.5)

5 Honest; direct (8)

14 Body of singers (6)

to bill, score (6)

Jester's garb; varied (6)

11 Capital of Australia (8)

35 Brightest star in sky (6)

2 Single-minded enthusiast

4 Foomore-indicating star (8)

12 (Dishes) available separate-

16 Miscellaneous items added

4 Tea-growing Indian state (5) 7 Honorary title in retirement

8 Collapse; American season 9 Fit together neatly (8)

ACROSS

10 Drink of the gods (b)

13 One by one (6) 14 Old chorus-line dance (b)

15 Brief picture, playlet (6) 18 Controller of machinery (8) 19 Fold in tidily: schoolboys'

food (4) 20 Make a table out of (S) 21 Trim finely, pare (5)

17 Prestige (6) ACROSS: I Bush-haby 5 Clip 8 Chore 9 Abraham II Lid ACROSS: I Bush-haby 5 Clip 8 Chore 9 Abraham II Lid 12 Kid gloves 13 Catchy 15 Forest 18 Architect 19 Don 20 Pioneer 21 Umber 22 Left 23 Verbatim DOWN: I Bucolic 2 Sword 3 Break the ice 4 Brandy 6 Le Havre 7 Pumps 10 Rule of thumb 14 Tick off 16 Tantrum 17 Degree 18 Appal 19 Debut

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ALL answers share a peculiarity, and are to be entered economically. Pairs may be entered in either order.

ACT 058 Henry laughed head off. You started. Penny laughed head off. You started again, wildly. Eager for a try to get started: Over charges for nuts.

Punctuation may mislead.

Numbers coming in do extract from wigwam, Be quiet in long unknown path with too much water in it. It pelted in an Irish style.

One is unable to decide for stupid girl accepting Whistle-blower leaves, rubbishes the way we do things. Signal urgent start going in over the top and climbing back in. 21

Early results — six points.
A representative dance around plain. Object because of cheap holiday accommodation. Bank declares tests. Instruments making noise I removed from revolutionaries with time out.

A source of amusement for chief officers.

One follows teacher and is sometimes kept in — 33 Wear things that don't come off. With haived Roman numbers Persian king goes.
At the Sorbonne I examine returning wealthy

travellers. (Two words)
Keep dancing, and without a repeated one in, and including original beginning. 39 Tropical tree topped and tailed by goddess, lime, for example.

Able to perceive connection between numbers in group. Trees like polliniferous extremities.

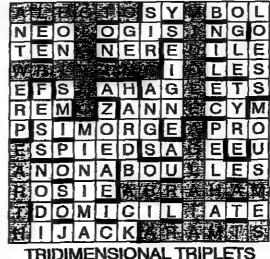
Zest round fruit. Supports holy man left in ashes, perhaps. Country for game.

Solution to 3351 All the Threes, by Foxglove TRIDIMENSIONAL TRIPLETS

 1A. Fafe: U.A. Roman; 13. time; 19. rad; 2hA. living;
 31. marquetry; 36. plane; 37. novel;
 3. Fates;
 8. river;
 16. book;
 18. van;
 20D. spaffle;
 30. cells. Trios (clue answer, light, third member)
1A. Meguera, Alecto, Tisiphone (furies); 12, arithmetic, writing. reading (three Rst; 34, Jacob, Abraham, Isaac (Patriarchs);

37. Athos, Aranis, Porthos (musketeers); 3. Atropos, Clotho, Lachesis (Pates); 6. beginning, middle, end; 25. Euphrusyne, Aglaia, Thalia (Graces); 27D. air. earth, sea. ◆ The winner is: G. Willett of London NW3
The two runners-up are R. Webb of Solibull, West Midlands and R. Prinn of Discovery Bay, Hong Kong

Statistics relating to 1995 crosswords, including personal record, are available to senders of an SAE (220mm x 110mm; from overseas; stamp enempt) to J.E. Green, 31 Bishopric Court, Horsham. West Sussey RHI2 [TJ.]



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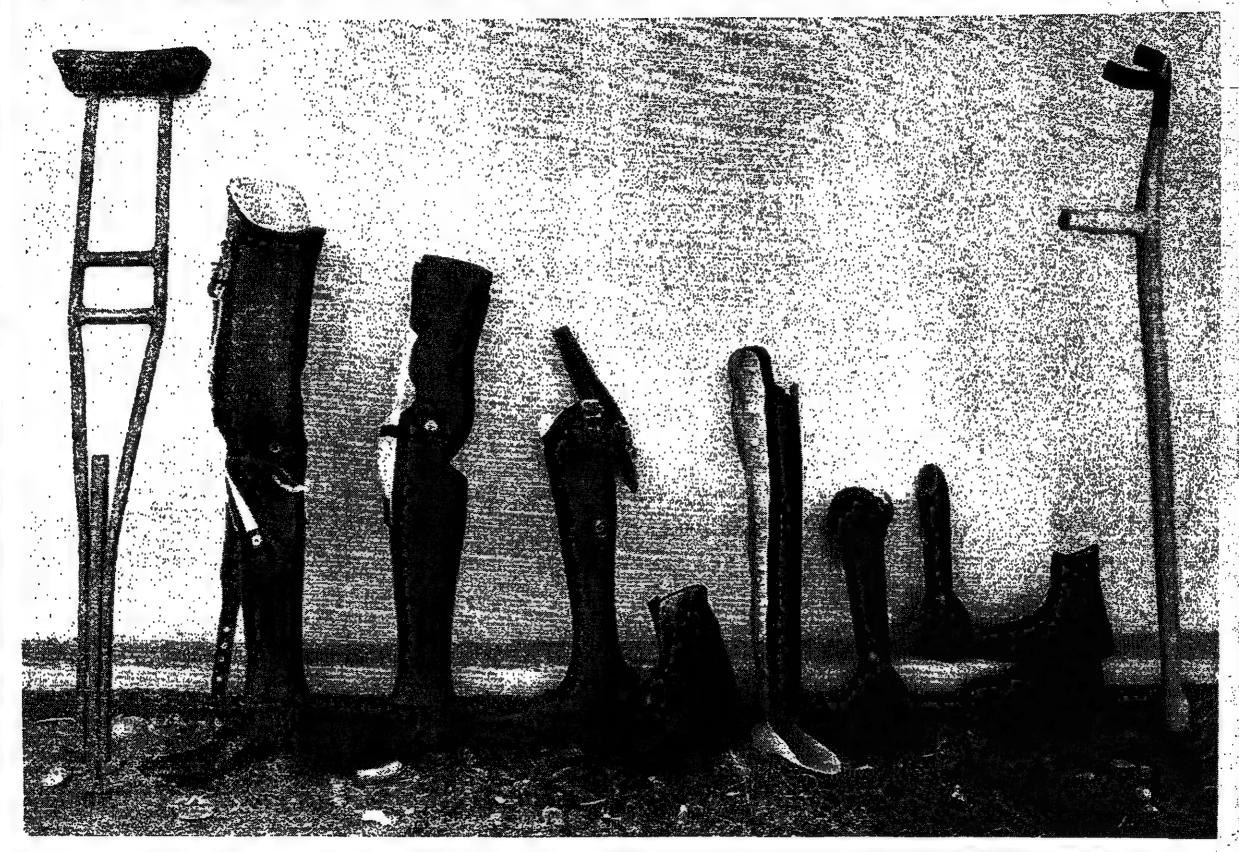
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FORGET LONDON, PARIS AND ROME. THIS IS WHAT THE WOMEN IN PHNOM PENH ARE WEARING.



Today the growth industry in Cambodia isn't fashion. It's prosthetics.

The country has around 20,000 amputees from a population of just 8.5 million. This means one amputee for every 236 people (compared to a figure of one for every 22,000 people in America).

So why is the situation in Cambodia so bad?

The country has suffered from civil unrest for many years. But the real villain of the piece isn't so much the war, as the weapons.

Cambodia is literally being crippled by anti-personnel landmines.

They are an incredibly cheap form of warfare (costing as little as 3 US dollars each). So to seize some tactical advantage combatants think nothing of deploying scores of these weapons.

In a single 1km stretch of road in Cambodia 6,000 landmines were found.

They are also deployed with scant regard for the indigenous population.

It is the men, women and children out working the fields who are most likely to fall victim to these hidden killers.

And in an agricultural society where muscle power means survival, the loss of a limb can have repercussions far beyond the physical disability.

Take just one of Cambodia's victims. Chhea Veou was 19 when she lost a leg walking to harvest rice in a paddy.

"I cannot earn money because no one will employ me. I wanted to have children. But no-one will marry me because I don't have a leg."

And so she is forced to follow the dangerous paths into the rice fields at harvest

time. She shrugs. "What else can I do?"

It's because of Chhea, and thousands like her, that the Red Cross is urgently seeking your help. The carnage must end.

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Gartmore gets its timing right for Japanese launch



Japanese consumers are taking a different attitude and looking outwards

apanese dignitaries bidding farewell to President Clinton on Thursday night were able to do so on a happy note. In Britain at least one fund manager was equally happy with the outcome of the US presidential visit. In particular, he was pleased that it coincided with news that the politically sensitive and huge trade surplus between America and Japan had fallen by 27 per cent in the year to March. indeed, the whole timing of the President's Japanese visit could not have fallen better for Michael Wrobei, managing director of Gartmore, who this week unveiled plans for a new Select Japanese Investment

Trust, Last year nothing went right for Japan and the market indicators were largely negative. A soaraway yen, zero growth, little inward investment, banking scandals and an ever growing trade surplus with the US all acted as a drag on the long-mooted recovery of the world's second largest

stock market. This year is different, says Mr Wrobel. While other major World stock markets, including our own FT-SE 100 and the US Dow Jones industrial average, are reaching new highs, the Japanese market is still 40 per cent below its all-time high in December 1989. This, in theory at least, should leave

plenty of room for capital growth prospects. According to the latest

Merrill Lynch Gallup survey, UK fund managers are heavy buyers of Japanese equities, with 77 per cent taking a bullish view on the next 12 months. With the Japanese Government easing the heavy burden of regulation, consumers are discovering an appetite for foreign goods. Car manufacturers, for example, are beginning to make inroads into the domestic markets, making distributors a natural buy for the new Gartmore

Mr Wrobel also points out that the number of personal computers in Japan is 14 per 100 people, compared with 46

in the US. The comparable statistics for mobile telephones are 7 per 100 in Japan and 12 per 100 in

Gartmore, which last week became part of the NatWest empire, has taken the house riew to be overweight in Japas and underrepresented in the US market. Mr Wrobel points to the most positive indicators being a weak yen, political stability, record low interest rates and the return of capital expenditure on much needed investment in companies and

rising retail sales. The Wrobel approach to individual stockpicking will be the "top down" approach with the sector or industry coming first and then being narrowed down to the company. He adds: "The trust's portfolio is expected to maintain a relatively broad spread of invest-

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ments, comprising between 60 and 70 individual holdings, with initial emphasis placed on smaller and medium-sized companies in domestic manufacturing, electronics and real estate. We will also emphasise themes including companies which will benefit from a weaker yen or from structural change, for example, the rapidly growing personal comput-

This will be the first trust launch since the £470 million NatWest acquisition and Gartmore will be out to prove its mettle with its new owner.

Still in the Pacific Rim but this time excluding Japan, is a new Asian Values investment trust from Fidelity which will be launched officially next

week. Lee, who will manage the newcomer, will cast his net wide and include markets such as India, Thai-

land, Indonesia, Malaysia and

TRUST

WATCH

Finally, TR Pacific Investment Trust yesterday announced that its bid for Thornton Asian Emerging Markets Investment Trust had been successful. The TR trust, managed by Michael Watt, offered new TR Pacific ordinary shares, or a cash alternative, for a Thornton trust that had long languished at the bottom end of the performance scale.

The TR bid was neat and clinical. Many other poor performers should sit up and take Gartmore: 0800 919 727

ROBERT MILLER

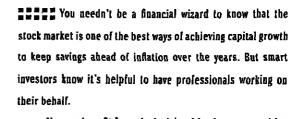
Bid talk generates **National Power**

The million or so shareholders in National Power have seen the value of their holdings rise by nearly 20 per cent over the last week on speculation that Southern, the Atlanta-based utility, is seeking a merger (Caroline Merrell writes). Although NP rejected the idea that the two should talk, the share price remained at around 590p yesterday, up from 492p at the

start of the week. Analysts believe that despite National Power's reticence, a merger or takeover may still be on the cards. Southern could come back with a formal hostile bid. Southern successfully bought South Western Electricity (Sweb) through a hostile bid last year for a price of 965p — representing a return of 302 per cent on the issue price of 240p in 1990. National Power believes that

combining with Southern of the US and its subsidiary Sweb is not as good an option as its own strategy of bidding for Southern Electricity of the However, the outcome of this latter bid, and any future plans for Southern of the US to

snap up National Power, will hinge on a decision by Ian Lang. President of the Board of Trade. It is expected he will decide whether to approve National Power's bid for Southern in the next ten days. This decision about allowing vertical integration between generators and the regional electricity companies could also affect the remaining four independent electicity companies — Yorkshire, Northern. East Midland and London.



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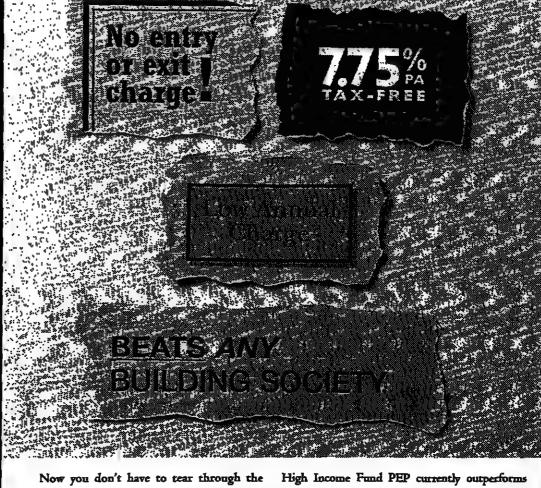
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reveal that benefits worth up to £3.2 billion a year - more ed in this way to be transthan E60 million a week — are going unclaimed, with 4.7 million people living on incomes below income support level. The Child Poverty Ac-tion Group has revised and updated its two handbooks which explain the social security benefit rules as they apply from April 1996. The National Welfare

guide to claiming means-tested benefits, particularly income support, housing benefit and family credit. The booklet, costing £8.95, includes the new income support rules affecting people in residential care, lone parents and under-25s, and housing benefit restrictions.

Rights Guide to Non-Means-Tested Benefits explains all non-income related benefits, including unemployment benefit, disability living allowance, statutory sick pay, and pensions for widows. The guide costs £7.95. Send a cheque to CPAG Ltd, I-5 Bath Street, London ECIV 9PY.

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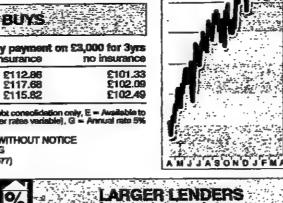
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	10.000	AIG Life	6.13
	20,000	AIG Life	6.23
	50,000	AIG Life	6,43
3 Years			
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	10,000	AIG Life	6.23
	20,000	AIG Life	6.38
	50,000	A)G Life	6.48
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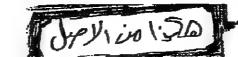
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Can retirement come too soon?



etirement cannot come soon enough for many of us. A recent survey by Barclays found that 68 per cent of people hope to retire before 60 — a third of them would like to stop working

Retirement is no longer een as the end of the road but an opportunity for people to lead a more satisfying existence doing what they want. Early retirement has also become more common as companies have cut costs by offering early retirement as an option to older, more expensive, staff.

Among men aged 60-64, the percentage of those working has fallen from more than 80 per cent in the early 1970s to just over 50 per cent in the early 1990s.

To enjoy an early retirement, though, it is necessary to have an adequate pension. This is why many end up working longer than they would like, because they find that once they have done their sums, the idea of living on a small pension becomes less attractive.

Clive Scott Hopkins, of Towry Law, the financial advisers, said: "Anybody contemplating early retirement needs to consider well in advance how much income they will need so that they can build up their pension by making extra savings.

"Members of company pension schemes should consider topping up with additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) and making full use of their Pep allowances. Personal pension investors have the advantage that they an mop up missed contribuions in past years."

Your potential pension on early retirement will depend on a number of factors, such as the type of pension you have; the length of time you have contributed, the terms of the scheme and the circum-. early retirement. In almost all cases, however, retiring early will mean you get a lower pension than if you had waited until your normal

retirement age. This is partly because you will have made fewer contributions and/or completed fewer years of service. It is also due to the fact that your pension will have to be spread over a longer period.

For example, a man who retires at 55 will, on average, draw his pension for seven years longer than a man who stops working at 65. You won't get more (unless you live longer than expected) because the amount of your pension will generally be lower throughout. In addition, you may incur early retirement penalties if you retire before a specific age. These will vary between

Occupational Schemes

ACCORDING to the latest annual survey of the Nat-ional Association of Pension Funds, 60 per cent of schemes still have a normal pension age of 65, while 23 per cent set their pension age at 60, with the remainder somewhere in

The majority of schemes which have had to equalise the pension age for men and women have equalised at 65 rather than 60, though where this has involved raising the age employers will usually allow retirement at the previous pension age without penalty.

Anyone who wants to go earlier than this, however, may be penalised. Peter Timberlake. Legal & General's marketing manager, says: "In a final salary scheme, people can lose out in two ways - not only will they have fewer years' service, an early retirement discount may also be applied to their normal pension entitlement. This discount is typically 0.5 per cent for every month their retirement precedes the normal pension age. So someone who wanted to retire five years early, say, would not only have five years less service but would also incur a 30 per cent

early retirement penalty." This makes early retirement at your own request rather un-attractive, unless you can defer drawing your pension until the normal age and live off other income or capital in the meanstances in which you take time. However, if early retire- Still, you could suffer because ment is offered by an employer of the lower annuity rates



that apply at younger ages. Bob Marriott, pensions specialist at Sedgewick Noble Lowndes, says: "It may be worth considering a switch to a pension income withdrawal scheme which would enable you to take a cash sum, say, to pay off your mortgage plus a minimum income, if you could supplement it with income from other sources so that you could defer buying your annuity until you are

pension you get on early re-tirement will depend mainly on the size of your pension Personal fund and annuity rates at the time. Some schemes may **Pensions** also have early retirement penalties, though employers can augment your pension if

BENEFITS from a personal

The size of your pension fund will depend on how much you have saved and the investment returns achieved by your pension provider.



Retirement is often seen as something affecting the elderly, but how you earn your living can dictate a "premature" pension date. The minimum age dancers can jump for joy is 35

problem is that many people simply do not invest enough Pensions in their personal pension to be able to afford to retire ear-THERE is no provision ly." The other main variable is annuity rates. The younger under the state pension you are the more expensive scheme for early retirement, they are. A married man of 55 unless you retire through illwith a pension fund of

health in which case you may £100,000, for example, will get a pension £1,250 less than qualify for other state benefits. Otherwise you will have someone of 65. Shopping to wait until normal retirearound for the best annuity ment age. rates may help you to get a If you take early retirement better deal, and if it is anticibefore age 60, there is even a pated that interest rates are danger that you may have a gap in your National Insurabout to rise, it may be worth postponing your retirement ance record which could affect your entitlement to a full until annuity rates improve.

Alternatively, a phased rebasic state pension. Provided that you "sign tirement, or pension income on", however, you will re-ceive NI credits which will withdrawal scheme, could be used to delay annuity purbridge this gap.

MINIMUM RETIREMENT AGES

The following are from personal pension schemes for

certain occupations

Source Inland Revenue

LENGTHOF RETREMENT

Average years life expectancy at different ages 24.3 25.0 20.1 16.4 20.9

ANNUITIES AND INCOME

RAILTRACK

9,549

seeking to reduce staffing,

penalties may be removed to

encourage volunteers. If the

employer is really generous,

the full period of service you

would have completed to nor-

mal retirement age will also

be used in your pension cal-

culations. Such concessions

may also be made if your re-

tirement is because of ill-

In employers' money pur-chase schemes, the level of

they are anxious to shed staff.

pension policy can be taken from the age of 50, unless you are a member of a profession given special dispensation by the Inland Revenue to retire earlier (see list). However, there may be early retirement penalities imposed by your insurer to recoup costs if you take your pension before the end of a certain term or age. Check this out before going ahead. It may be better to wait a few years until the penalty is lifted.

MORTGAGE BREAKTHROUGH

How to save £000's on your mortgage and reduce the term by 10 years.

If you're in the market for a new mortgage consider the benefits of the Early Payment Plus Mortgage from Mortgage Trust.

Firstly, it allows you to alter the speed with which you repay your mortgage to suit your needs. For instance, if you increased your monthly repayments by £200 on a £100,000 mortgage (from £706.14 to £906.14) you could pay your mortgage off in 15 years instead of the more usual 25 years - saving you over £39,000 in interest. Equally, you can pay off larger sums (or all of your loan) at any time without penalty and you get credited from the day you pay, not at the end of the month or year.

Secondly, you can borrow back extra payments you make during the term of your mortgage - again without penalty. All you have to do is call us and we'll transfer the agreed amount directly to your bank account - or send you

Thirdly, our variable mortgage rate is extremely competitive at 6.99% (APR 7.3%), we'll lend up to 95% of the property valuation on purchases; and we'll lend you up to 90% of the property valuation on re-mortgages.

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For more information about the Early Payment Plus Mortgage please telephone our customer service team on 0600 550 551. Calls are free. Alternatively, contact your Independent Financial Adviser.

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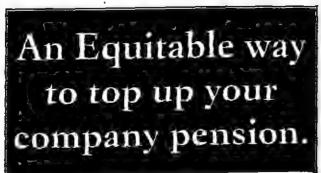
Mortgage Trust

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If you have financial advisers, please ask their advice. If you do not have an adviser but would like one, please call us and we will provide you with three independent Financial Advisers for you to choose from. If you do not need any independent financial advice, we will be happy to deal with you directly.

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Did you know that to receive the maximum pension available, you would typically have to be a member of the same company pension scheme for 40 years?

Or that changing your job, even once, could dramatically reduce your pension? So that, just when you have more time to enjoy life, you have less money.

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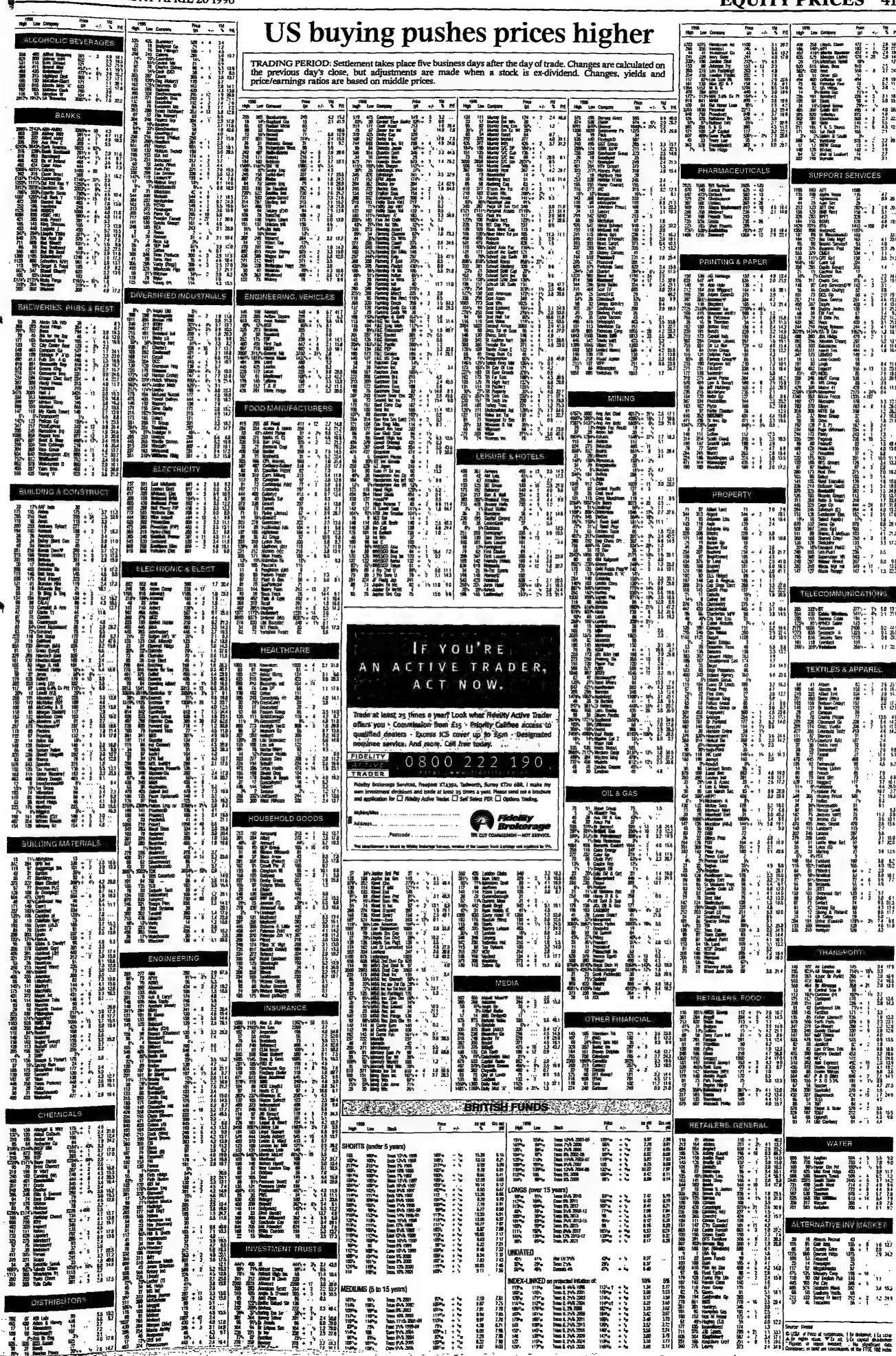
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Venables takes FA to task over successor

By Peter Ball

apparently opening and then closing the door to his continuation as England coach, Terry Venables yesterday criticised the Football Association's delay in appointing his successor. Venables returned to the subject when the England squad assembled at Bisham Abbey to prepare for Wednesday's match against Croatia.
"It's a good job I didn't wait

until after Euro '96. I've got to say that, because if it had taken the same amount of time there would have been a certain amount of matches Venables aiready played." Venables said. That's why it was helpful of me to make my announcement at Christmas because it still gave the FA plenty of time to do it."

suggestions that Glenn Hoddle's contract negotiations with Chelsea are stall-



Fowler: may lead attack

ing while he waits for an approach, the FA may be loser than Venables realises. Yesterday David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs. insisted that the process was not stagnating, "We are progressing. I hope the situation is resolved as soon as possible," he said.

The first World Cup qualifying game against Moldova is no time for Venables's predecessor to bed in with matches anyway, the only real reason. for haste would seem to be for Venables, himself, if he still harbours hopes of being approached again. That remains unlikely.

With Shearer and Ferdinand missing. Venables yesterday was considering a move from the Christmas tree. to the red arrows, a rather more aggressive formation.

TWENTY-FOUR hours after for the match against Croatia, using an all-Liverpool attack of Collymore and Fowler, with McManaman in his free role behind them. Venables is a cautious man, however, and he may not want to take such a

"They are a very good combination now," Venables said. "I've got to think it through and decide what is best for myself, the team, and everyone else. There's no doubt McManaman's experience of playing with both of them helps, but whether it's the right thing to do is another

Collymore has been in excel-lent form during Liverpool's run-in this year and his part-nership with the prolitic Fowler is burgeoning. "I've always believed I can play at this level, and to play with Robbie would be a bit special," Collymore said. "As a partner-ship I don't see why we can't work for England.

I'm not as much of an outand-out striker as I was last season. The gaffer [Roy Evans. the Liverpool manager] didn't want me and Robbie pushing up against two centre halves and I've had to do something different to justify my place. It gives me more of the ball, and making goals for Robbie is almost as enjoyable as scoring

Peter Beardsley was the only member of the England squad not to train yesterday. Croatia have included Igor Stimac, the Derby County defender, and Slaven Bilic, of West Ham, in their squad.

There was a brief respite in the withdrawals from the Ireland squad for their game with the Czech Republic in Prague on Wednesday when Jason McAteer returned after withdrawing on Thursday. "I am going to join the squad, although I am doubtful and it is possible I may be sent back home." McAteer said, after treatment on his knee at Anfield. Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, has lost Staunton. Alan Kelly, Gary Kelly, Cascarino, Aldridge, Phelan. O'Nelli and Farrelli from his original selection. Germany have failed to get

Jürgen Klinsmann available for their first game in the European Championship. against the Czech Republic, at Old Trafford on June 9. The German FA mounted a campaign to get bookings incurred in the qualifying matches discounted. "We are not prepared to make any changes," Lennart Johansson, the president of Ucfa, said last night.



Reid's record deserves promotion

FOOTBALL managers with brief singing careers behind them are not unknown -Kevin Keegan, Glenn Hoddle and Terry Venables all cut discs in their playing days. For a manager to be the subject of a hit song is another matter, making Peter Reid unique when Cheer Up, Peter Reid, the Sunderland supporters' version of Day Dream Believer, reached 41 in the charts.

Reid deserves such acclaim. He has still to prove that he can manage great players and build a great team, because so far he has not had the resources, but on his achievements with two ordinary teams at Manchester City and Sunderland, he could become one of the game's outstanding managers

His team are flying higher than the record. The opening line reflects his tugubrious countenance while watching games, but as anyone who has been out with him can testify, he knows how to enjoy nimseu, and ne is enjoying himself hugely at the moment as Sunderland go into their game with Stoke City tomorrow with the Endsleigh Insurance League first division title within their grasp.

It has been a remarkable transformation. Nine of the players in the team which beat Birmingham City 3-0 on Tuesday were on the books when Reid arrived at Roker Park 13 months ago, charged with saving the club from

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Peter Ball says bigger challenges lie ahead for the architect of the Roker renaissance

relegation. Reld had been out of management for 18 months, in spite of his success with Manchester City, where he had taken a limited side to fifth, fifth and ninth in the Premiership, before being sacked three games into the 1993-94 season. In the light of what has happened since at Maine Road, these were halcyon days for City.

Reid's record suggested that he should have got a job as soon as the sacking season began, but unaccountably nothing suitable emerged.

Instead, he continued playing, helping out at Southampton and Notts County before ending up at Bury. Even when the Sunderland

job arrived, it was initially a short-term appointment. It quickly became permanent. Understandably, Reid now allows himself a quiet smile at the prospect of City and Sunderland changing places.

The defence was all right when I was there." he said, "but I wanted to bring in Sinclair, Townsend and Paul Stewart to give us a bit more

Sunderland at ready

SUNDERLAND could be promoted to the FA Carling Premiership today without kicking a ball (Peter Ball writes). If third-placed Crystal Palace fail to win at Wolverwanderers, the Endsleigh Insurance League first division leaders will be sure of promotion, even before they face Stoke City at Roker Park tomorrow. Palace's run from the lower

half of the table into a play-off slot since Dave Bassett arrived has seen them suffer only one defeat in 13 games. Now, even Derby County, in second place, are within their range, and Bassett yesterday rejected suggestions that his team

might benefit from a further year in the Endsleigh League. in the short term, at least. Bassett has made more impact than Mark McGhee, the Wolverhampton manager, whose side are without a win in four games. This afternoon, they will be without Darren Ferguson, who is suspended while Palace are missing their cap-

tain, Ray Houghton, for the same reason. Bassett did insist, however. that he will not want to know the result of the Derby game - who today are at home to Birmingham City - until after the match. Palace supporters are unlikely to show similar restraint.

in attack. But he Peter Swales, the chairman wouldn't let me spend the

The key player at Sunder-land has been Paul Bracewell. Reid's old Everton midfield colleague, who has given him a leader on the field and a like-minded assistant off it. Paul's influence on this football club has been massive, on and off the field," Reid said.

His other signings were David Kelly and, last month, Paul Stewart this time on a free transfer. He had got his man at last, again to some raised eyebrows, especially as Reid wanted him to play in his original position as a striker.

goalscorer." Reid said, "but he's a strong so-and-so, and I do like a forward who can hold it up and give the midfield players a chance to get in. Since he's been here, Kevin Ball and Steve Agnew have scored three goals each." Bolton's performances this

"I don'l think he's a

season suggest that Reid wil need more than free transfer players if Sunderland are to survive next year. Even the £10 million he is expected to be given looks barely adequate. But if Sunderland are unable to live up to their estimation of themselves as one of the leading clubs, Reid is too hard-headed to persevere at an impossible task. And if he leaves Sunderland, it will surely be for a genuinely big club.

FA perpetuating one law for rich another for poor



Rob HUGHES

Weekend View

n football, as in life, it is a fallacy to pretend that the playing field is level between rich and poor. In the past week the Football Association has come down with crushing effect on Bournemouth Poppies, a club playing in the Jewson Wessex League, and effectively putting that 125-year-old club out of exis-

tence because of non-payment

of a transfer fee of £1.250.

The guardians of Lancaster Gate, meanwhile, decided to take absolutely no action against Alex Ferguson, the manager of England's richest club, Manchester United, after he deliberately used television. radio and print to accuse Leeds United players of "cheating" on their manager effectively. Ferguson alleged that Leeds had over many games not played to their potential, the gravest accusation in the game since it affects

the very integrity of sport.
First, the intriguing tale from the country shire. Bournemouth Poppies received a letter last Saturday informing them that they were suspended from all footballing activity. from their best semi-pro to their youngest boy in the youth team, until the El.250 owed to Salisbury City for the transfer of Paul Morrell, a full back, was paid, plus VAT, plus a £150 fine imposed by the FA on a club clearly struggling to pay its way.

The effect on the young

players, and the voluntary men who run their team, was particularly unjustified. Surey it is the remit of Lancaster Gate to foster the game in this country, not to prohibit it? Steve Double, speaking for the FA, insists that this is not an action without precedent, though Lancaster Gate cannot cite any. "We find when we have financial problems at this level that the threat of suspension is the only weapon we have." Double said. "The actual charge against Bourne-mouth Poppies was failing to reply to correspondence. The club was given 14 days to pay." At the heart of this problem

lies a club which could not pay is dilis. As it had benefactor. Pierre Cuglietta. born in France of an Italian father and the proprietor of Fireside Gallery, stepped in to draw a banker's draft for the full amount, to deliver it by hand to Salisbury, and to obtain a receipt. Within 24 hours, the ban was rescinded, and the youth team managed to play their game on Thursday night, having previously been told they would be deprived of it by order of the FA.

But wait a moment. Who believes that the high-andmighty clubs, not to mention those of the Endsleigh Insurance League third division. live by principles other than the Heseltine method of deferring payment until actually forced to cough up? Who has heard of FA suspensions, as opposed to the perfectly correct authoritarian attitude of banning miscreant clubs from operating on the transfer mar-ket, while their debts are untenable?

This is not to excuse football's habit of living beyond its means - the FA is quite right to govern that more strictly than in the past — but if the principle applies outside the professional game then it has to evenly apply inside it. Manchester United, who sold Paul Ince to Internazionale, of Italy, one of the richest clubs in the world, are receiving the transfer lee in the customary manner, on the never-never system of a downpayment and further increments as and when inter can pay.

Cuglietta, who stepped in as the Poppies' sponsor when the club was let down earlier in the season, admits that it was unwise of the Bournemouth club to ignore a letter. "But what concerned me was that a stigma was being attached to this club, and that was unfair on all the people who do maryellous work unpaid, and devastating to boys who just want to play to the best of their capability, boys like my own son who has reached county level with the help of playing for the Poppies.

But Lancaster Gate came down unsympathetically on the struggling Hampshire club. At the start of the year, again involving Manchester United — a club which reaps a million pounds whenever it plays at Old Trafford — they had fined that club £20,000 for "poaching" a schoolboy from Oldham. A fine, but no really crippling action.

Similarly, the FA says that Ferguson's unprovable-assertions against the Leeds profesit they are doll is his right under freedom of speech. But if, to use a nonprofessional's word, it stigmatises the whole approach to the entertainment, and it casts aspersions on the purpose and the honesty of the best players in the land, such a statement ought to be answerable.

Alas, no. As the American critic, John Leonard, once said: "The rich are different from you and me because they have more credit."

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

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(37) Famborough v Telland
(—) Halifar v Wolung
(—) Kiddernihaler v Gateshead

(38) Slough v Morecambe (—) Stalybroige v Dover Bell's Scottsh League Premier division (39) Aberdeen v Hearls (40) Celuc v Fallerk

(41) Hibernian v Railn ... (42) Niknamock v Partick First division (45) Durntermime v Durnbarton (46) Greenock Morton v St Johnstone (47) Hamilton v Durndee Utd

Second division (49) Berwick v Stramaer (50) Clyde v Ayr (51) East File v Forfar (53) Stenhousenium v Čjueen Of South

Third division (54) Alloa v Brechin (55) Arbroath v Boss County (55) Caley This v Albion (57) East Stalling v Cowdenbeath (58) Queen's Park v Livingsion

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aperilatation & Aten Lido Bangar City - Constant Burn - Hotywell (2:30) Burn - Ferry - Ebbw Valo Consuce Bay - Livinsamfraid Company - Porthmaday - Ilinsamfraid Company - Consult - Consul FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE First division Bodingson Farrers v. Whittay. Charles-le-Street v. Micron Conset's Billingham, Cross v. Sustain Ros Star. Donaton Federation. Divinam, Fretynik v. Gusborough, Stackton v. West Auckland. Tea Law v. 81M (Newtact).

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MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE Premier division. Areasy Town v Harfield Maton Feynos v Brackeswade Budangham Alhtens v Brackessande Budangham Alhtens v Brackes Sparia, Reyston v Dunstable Langlord v Hargenden Todongton v Hodde sdon London Coinc / v Lefotworth Shilington v Webryn Garden GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division Bidelard v Birdport Franc v Eirigue Odd Down v Twerton, Manyalshold v Bigelard Taunton v Bristington, Tortington v Caling

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ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE SIX-

Nick off 3.0 unless stated

First division

Sunderland v Stoke

Wick Hassocks v Langney Sports: Horsham YMCA v Haisham Pegham v Eastbourne Town, Peacethavon and Toboomba v Three Brogos, Portheld v WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE, Fire

division: Ciay y Chalham, Dartland is Folkestone Innots, Fumous y Contentury Greenwich y Whitstabla, Home Bay is Skuppe, Ramsgale y Connthian, Tun-bridge Wells y Feversham

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abringdon United v Swindon Supermanne, Bio-ster v Highworth Brackley v Endslogh Chemication v Amondsbury, Partial v North Levgt: Lambourn Sports v Traffey BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division. Cradley Town v Blowich S, Dartaston v Wochesheld Lichheld C v Hill Top R Ludlow T v Bourgon S, Lip Town v Stationd T Mature T v Beerky Hill T, Invidale v Worself Worself v Stringshall Hill

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUN-TIES LEAGUE, Premier division, Bosion v nes cendue, Premier division, Boston v Statiold; Conenhoe v Holbrach Newport Pagnall v Si Neota Northumpton Sp v Baund, Police

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier division. Annthorpe W v Glass-houghton W, Belpur Town v Picketing Brigg T v Haffield Main, Goolo v Ossett Town, Hallam v Sheffield, Liversedge v Ashfield Mattoy M W v Denaby, North Fembry v Thackley, Ossett Albaon v Arnold, Stool-sbridge P S v Hudwatt NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE FIRS

Advision: Chiberole v Chadderton, Flaton v Eastwood H, Kidagrove v Blackpool Rover, Nantwork v Burscough, Newcastle Town v Glossop North End, Peneth v Mossley, Prescot v Holler Old Boys.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsend v Southampton, lipswich v Wimblodon (all Portman Roed)

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier di-vision: Ards v Bangor Cidionville v Crucaders, Giuntevan v Linfeld, Portadown BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier division: Gaiway v Bohomians

COUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE FINE

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division Chokmeleian, y Melvemans, Etoniens

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL Endsleigh insurance League nsurance Corporation League

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE. First di-VISION, West Bromwish . Legas (2.0) LEAGUE OF WALES: Inter Cardiff (BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND. Premier amsion: Cark : Drophece (£ 45) Shutticok v Derry (3 15); 116D : Affects (3 15) FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: Nat-

ional league: Appendiv Villa Agrica Everton പ്രീട്രീഷ്ട്രീ പ്രത്യേടന്ത്ര പ്രത്യോഗ FC പ്രത്യം പ FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE Northern di vision Langiord - Huddersteit Transier v Gaswood St Huter - Southern division Chard Urd v Southern page 5 years RUGBY UNION

ice-off 30 amess maked Sanyo Gup Leicester v World YV (at Twickenham) ennents 1556 Cup Quarter-finals Glasgow Abads is Melrosis towick - Presint Loons feriots FP - Naiscovans ramamockii. Dundoj HSPP TENNENTS 1556_BOY/L Quarter finals. Annan - Editorian Writis Cartha O P / Service Footbas v

TENNENTS 1556 SHIELD

finals: Curne v Kelso, Glangow Southern v Kirk caldy: Gordonians v Glenrothes. West of Scotland v Stirling County

Sunday's Well v Old Creuceni (2:30) Wanderers v Dolohin (2 30) MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUP: Final: Stanes, C Micchani-Taylors (at Haricaum), 1 (i) NORTH MIDLANOS COUNTY CUP: Final: Concrete or Hereford (at Mosalem). NORTH MIDLANDS COUNTY CUP. Final: Worcestor v Heroford cal Moseley; EAST MIDLANDS COUNTY CUP: Final: Relearing a American to Alexander Modern Cup. Final: Ayestorin v Modern for Adversary. Aviesbury WOMEN'S NATIONAL CUP: Final: High WOMEN'S NATIONAL CUP: Final: High mond is Sanzens for Stances RFC)
WOMEN'S STUDENT CUP. Final.
Loughborough v Brunst College (at Stance,
RFC 1.0)

Tetley's Shield 110 second day of low CHELMSFORD: England A v The Real University match 11 30 to 6 30, second day of three FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Derbythire County match

OLD TRAFFORD, Lancachire v York-RUGBY LEAGUE Not at 30 units stand Stones Super League Hairbay v St Holens (6.0) Leeds v Shotleid

First division

Balley v Huddersheld (5 30) Hull v Widnes (3 15)

Rachdale v Dowsbury Wakefield v Sallord (3.30)

Second division Carlisto v Bramley Charley v Hull K R Hunslet v York (3 30) Leigh v Prescol South Wales v Doncaster (at Talbot Athletic Ground, 6.0) Swinton v Barrow (6.30)

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS at Maton Poynes) West Waney v Old Loughtoneans (10.0), Chellenham v Cran-son Ramblers (12.0), Blackburn v West Winney (2.0) OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League: Scottish Claymores v Baroctona (Munay-hold 3.0) ATHLETICS Flora Landon Marathon BASKETBALL Budwolser Lengue: Cham-pioriship play-oils: Quortur-brials, fford-leg Leopards v Manchester (5.0)

BOWLS, Men': English indoor champion CYCLING Both Rea 50 miles (Eradhold 5 miles Grand Prix (10 0) MOTOR SPORT, RAU Torking Car champ noship (Brundr Haleh) SNOOKER, Embarry World Champ-ica Jap (Charble Theatre Shotleich

TENNIS LTA women's saledo (com mign) (Edinburgh)

Foresters; Landing v Carthuslans First division; Brentwoods v Wykisharmsts; Haileyburians v Wellingbunans OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: O Hampiomans v O Tensonians Senior find division: O Menonans v O Tensomans Res, O Titimans v Charley, Phoantii v Shene SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: FIRE division: Civil Service v West Wickham, Easi Barnet OG v South Bank; kurw Association v Windhmore Hill; Norsemen v

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Server one: Portfield v Hale End Ath: St Mary's Coll v Wiran; Ulysses v Notaborough. Senior Ivo: City of London v Honourable Anticry Co. O Boalonians v Wandsworth Bor, O Finchletans v Connthan Cas. O Woodhouseans, v Mill Hill Village FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: Nai-SCHOOLS MATCHES Southern Counties Cup semi-final; Gloucesterches v Hackney (12:0) Manchester Evening News Cup final; Manchester v Bury London Sun Sheld, semi-final. West London v Islangton

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 uniess stated Courage Clubs Championship Second division Wakefield v Northampion . . CIS county championship Gioucestorshire v Werwickshire (al Twickenham). CIS under-21 county championship

East Midlands v Yorkshire (at Twickenham, 12,30) CIS under-21 county championship East Midlands v Yorkshire (at Twickenham, 12.30) Hetneken League Pire tokston Aberason v Abortiflery (2:30) Cardiff v Nowbridge (2:30) Ebbw Valo v Nowport (2:30) Lanelli v Pontypridd (2:30) Swarts o v Neoth (2:30) Treorchy v Bridgend (2:30)

Abercynon v Pontypool (2:30) Camphily v Tonby Utd (2:30) Cross Noys v Bonymaen (2:30) Lots: Next v Bonymaen (2.30)
Lia haran v Bandovery (2.30)
Mansleg v South Walc. Police (2.30)
Ystradymias v Durivant (2.30)
THIRD DIVISION: Blana v Cardit Inst.
Glamorian Whore, v Kentig Hill, Narberth v
Mornian Ash, Penarth v Blackwood, Pyle v
Tundu Tiredegar v Buith Wells

Tanumaen Communication Insurance Corporation League First division

Convitors are Toronomo Coll (2.30)

Blackrock College v Instemant. (2:30) Curk Constitution v Old Belvedere (2:30) Garryowen v St Mary's College (2:30) Lansdowne v Ballymena (2:30) ... roung Munster v Old Wesley (2 30) Second division Bectivo Riungers v Malone (2.30) Clontari v NIFC (2.30)

TENNENTS 1566 BOWL: Quarter-finel: Hillhead-Jordanthil v Ayr. Sub munches Camborne v Lauricesion Clitton v Lichtield ... Coventry v Moseley .

Coverny v Mosery
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Havani v Rosstyn Park
Henley v Learnington
Leeds v Wharfedale
Liverpool St Helens v Moriey
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Phymouth v Brisham
Preston G pars v Briventiead Park
Reading v High Vilycombe
Redruth v Taunton
Rotherham v York
Sandal v New Brighton
Sheheld v Macclesfield
Stouthordor v Hernlord Stourbridge v Herolard Tabard v Richmond Watsaff v Burton Watsaff v Burton Watsaff v Stoke

YOUTH INTERNATIONAL: England v UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL: Scotland v Wales (at Millorae, Ayr) UNDER-18 INTERNATIONAL: Scotland v Wales (at Millorae, Ayr, 115)

RUGBY LEAGUE Stones Super League Castlelord v Oldham (6.0) Cashelord v Otcham (6 0).

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Leigh Miners Welfars v
Saddleworth (2 30), Millorn v Hernel Horngstead (2 30), West Hull v Magheid (2 30),
Wigan SI Patricis v Howorth (2 30)

BNEL NATIONAL CUP: Sami-finels: Elenborough v Woodston (2 30), Wigan SI Judes)
v Skrlaugh (2 30)

CRICKET Tetley's Shield : 10 first day of tour CHELMSFORD: England A v The Rest County match OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v York-

11.30 to 6.30, lest day at three FENNER'S: Cambridge University v HE PARKS. Oxford University v

HOCKEY WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS (at Mitton keynos): Old Loughtonians. v Blackburn (2.0), Curnson Ramblers v West Winey (4.0). Cheltenham v Old Loughtonians (6.0) OTHER SPORT

OTHER SPORT
BOWLS: Men s English indoor championships (Motton Mowbray).
BOXING: British welterweight championship: Joe Calcaghe (Wales, holder) v
Mari Detaney (Wost Ham) (Brentwood)
CYCLING Welsh CA Tern miles (Frut of
five, Ragtan, 2 o): West Suffolk Tern miles
(Highton, 2:30).
SNOCKER: Embossy: World Champilonchip (Crucible Thoams, Sheffiold)
SPEEDWAY: Pramer Learner Archip (Cauche Intratin, Shemeta)
SPEEDWAY: Pramier League: Coverilry v
Selk: Yue (7:30). Eactbourse v Ipparet
(7:30). Swedon v Wolverhampton (7:30).
Speedway Star Cup. First round, second
leg Bradford v Sheffield (7:30).



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13.5 THE PARKS

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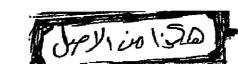
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African queens of the road ready to rule in London



Kimaiyo: highly-rated

ONE of the last havens for distance runners, where they have felt safe from the tide of Kenyan success, is about to be stormed. The women's section of the London Marathon has never had a Kenyan woman in the top ten, but three will be seeking to make their mark tomorrow, emphasising a fundamental change in their society's attitude towards women who run.

Kenyan women are increasingly mirroring the achievements of their all-conquering men. Their team vic-tory at the world cross-country championships last month was their fifth in six years; on the track they have been prominent in the last three world championships, and Tegla Loroupe has won the New York City

Marathon for the past two years. The girl most likely to shock at David Powell discovers that Kenya's women runners

are no longer content to let the men have all the glory

David Bedford, the elite race director, introduced Hellen Kimaiyo to the press this week. The two other Kenyans are Angelina Kanana and Joyce Chepchumba. Kanana set a national record of 2hr 27min 41sec when finishing second in Berlin last autumn. Chepchumba is, according to her manager, Volker Wagner, ready to run "at least as fast as 2hr 27min". No woman has recorded quicker than 2hr 27min since 1991,

First of all she likes running, but one race brings more money than a year's income in Kenya," Wagner said. Once it was the case that Kenyan women would be tied to the home, especially mothers like

Kimaiyo and Chepchumba, but now the men see them as tickets to wealth. Joyce had a boyfriend who was looking for someone in sport," Wagner added. "I told her she had to be careful because these women are wanted because they are rich."

Even before she won in New York for the first time, Loroupe could afford a house. If she was not a runner, she would have to work for 40 years to buy her first house," Wagner said, "Very few Kenyan women have a chance to buy their own home." Chepchumba has also purchased property out of her prizemoney and the winner's purse of \$55,000 (about £36,600) plus a

28min tomorrow, are powerful incentives for her to run as quickly as her manager suggests she should. She recorded 2hr 33min 5lsec in New York last November without training specifically for the marathon. This time she has. She has prepared with Loroupe, who was second in the Boston Marathon on Monday in 2hr 28min 37sec. "Joyce did the same training as Tegla," Wagner said, which is why he is confident she is a contender to win in London.

Chepchumba and Kimaiyo are employed by the Kenyan Post Office - the place to work if you want to develop from a promising runner into a successful one. "If they represent the company in events at home, they are given leave to compete in Europe." Wagner said. Kimaiyo brings a best halfmarathon time of 69min 13sec to her first marathon, quick enough to indicate that "maybe", as she put it, she has a chance of winning. She has left her husband at home in Nairobi in charge of their two children. "This is my part-time job and I can do it because of the understanding of my husband," she said. "He realises that, when I run, it benefits the whole family. My husband encourages me, which is why I continue working

hard in training."

Kimaiyo and Chepchumba, both from the Rift Valley, are close friends and, to begin with at least, they will stick close to each other tomorrow. Kimaiyo will use her compatriot's greater experience to measure her pace, "We used to believe that only the men could run fast," Kimaiyo said. Tomorrow, London will see for itself how times have changed.

IN BRIEF

Hickeys at home beat Piggotts to win final

MICHAEL HICKEY and his son, Mark, won the Father and Son golf tournament at their home club. West Hill, Surrey, yesterday. They beat the Piggotts, of Littlehampton and Perivale, in the final by two and one, having removed the strong favourites, Robbie and Mark James, of Walton Heath, in the semi-finals.

Three up at the 6th against the Piggotts, who were conceding four shots, the Hickeys fell away badly around the turn. Then Michael Hickey steadied the ship by winning the 13th and halving the 14th. Thereafter it was thrust and counter-thrust and three sterling halves in par figures saw the Hickeys home.

Calzaghe test

Boxing: Joe Calzaghe defends his British super-middleweight title against Mark Delaney, of West Ham, at Brentwood tonight, Calzaghe, 24. from Newbridge, Gwent, is unbeaten as a professional, but his first 15 opponents did not test him greatly. He was less impressive despite beating Stephen Wilson to win the British ritle.

Delaney, 24, the World Boxing Organisation inter-continental champion, also has an unbeaten record, having won all his 21 contests.

Double trouble

Badminton: Joanne Wright and Julie Bradbury lost 15-12, 10-15, 15-4 to the Danish No 3 seeds, Mariene Thomsen and Lisbet Stuer-Lauridsen, in the semi-finals of the European championship yesterday, cast-ing doubts on their prospects for a medal at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Bradbury and Simon Archer, seeded to win the mixed doubles title, then lost the final 18-16, 15-2 to the Danish No 2 seeds, Michael Sogaard and Rikke Olsen.

Arsenal entertain!

Football: Arsenal Ladies entertain Wolves today and Villa Aztecs tomorrow hoping to consolidate their position in second place behind Doncas league. Wolves are searching for their first point of the season, while Villa need to win and hope likestone Town gain no points from their next two games if they, too, are to avoid relegation.



returns this summer in an exciting new format and with a first prize of £10,000. Full details of how to play Interactive Team Cricket

S Africans find cup consolation in desert SOUTH AFRICA, finding

some consolation for their uncharacteristically meek exit from the cricket World Cup. won the Sharjah Cup yester-day, defeating India by 38 runs in the final of a competition that they dominated from start to finish.

Having subsided to a World Cup quarter-final defeat at the hands of the West Indies in March, when their performances in the round-robin stage -- and against England shortly before that — had marked them out as potential winners, they were pleased to find material proof of their one-day credentials in the United Arab Emirates.

We have achieved almost all the goals we set for this season, except the big one [the World Cup]." Hansie Cronje, their captain, said. "The wicket here wasn't easy to bowl at, but full marks to our bowlers

who all did tremendous jobs." It was, however, a batsman, Gary Kirsten, who played the most important role, scoring 115. Able support from an unlikely source, Pat Symcox, and a more predictable one. Brian McMillan, enabled South Africa to reach a formi-

dable 287-5. The India openers, Vikram Rathore and Sachin Tendulkar, gave their side an run-outs accounted for batsmen who appeared to be capable of maintaining the

required momentum. G Kinstein not out . . . A C Hudson c Azharuddin b Simath P L Symbox C Jadeja b Raju W J Cronje c Rathore b Kumble D N Crookes c Rathore b Kumble . B M McMittan not out McMillen not out as (b 5, w 16)

BOWLING: Smixth 10-1-51-1; Prasad 10-0-50-1, Tendukar 7-0-51-0; Kumble 10-1-42-2, Raju 9-0-70-1, Jadeja 4-0-18-0

INDIA

S L V Raju not out Extras (15 10, w 1, no 2) ...

will be published in a 16-page guide on Monday.

Make sure of your copy of The Times. the paper for cricket.

Maynard's sense of adventure dampened

FENNER'S (final day of three): Cambridge University drew with Glamorgan

MATTHEW MAYNARD, the new Glamorgan captain, yesterday settled for four centuries in the match, including one for himself, instead of trying to manufacture a finish after drizzle had delayed the start of the final day until 20 minutes after lunch.

Cambridge University un-derstood his predicament. They were itching for a runchase but they knew that it was too much to expect on a pitch on which their bowlers took only two wickets while conceding 510 runs in the two Glamorgan innings.

Maynard would have liked

to be more positive but felt the

Steve Elworthy scored a career-best 88 to lead a spirited Lancashire recovery against Yorkshire at Old Trafford yesterday. "Tancasix when Elworthy, 31, who faced 172 balls and hit 11 fours, guided them to 212 all out with the support of Warren Hegg (27) and Richard Green. reaching his 50 with a six. Yorkshire were 64 for three in reply at the close.

weather had the final word. "If we had had a full day's play, I would have given them a 312-hour chase," he said. "As it was. I thought it was important for our batsmen to have a knock because we haven't been able to get outside since our pre-season trip to Pretoria."

He also wanted them to get some runs under their belts. None of them had made a hundred in South Africa, so centuries for Morris and Hemp in the first innings. Maynard himself and James in the second, were just what was required.

The Cambridge bowling is nothing like as strong as their batting but, like Morris and Hemp before them, Maynard

and James played well. Maynard, 66 overnight, wasted no time in completing his hundred, which came in two hours off 92 balls with a six and 12 fours. He then retired with spasms in his lower back that prevented him from taking the field later and must be a cause for concern in view of his responsibilities this season.

James, meanwhile, was accelerating towards his second century against his old university. It took him more than three hours and contained only eight fours but his second 50 came at a run a ball as he began to rediscover the momentum that brought him more than 1,000 runs in limited-overs cricket last year.

There was just time for House to provide Cambridge with their only wicket of the day with a well-judged running catch to dismiss Cottey off Jones before Maynard declared at 248 for one - 286 ahead with only 80 minutes

for the University batsmen. Ragnauth was leg-before pulling at Thomas, Smith, a centurion in the first innings, was caught behind off Watkin and Singh, having demonstrated his flair with four successive boundaries, was brilliantly caught by the substitute, Evans, before they closed at 32 for three.

GLAMORGAN: First winners 252 for 1 dec (H Morris 126 not out, D L Hemp 103 not

Total (1 witt dec) 248
FALL OF WICKET 1-224.
BOWLING: Haste 13-1-62-0; Molfiel 13-2-64-0; Whiteal 7-0-30-0; How 5-1-46-0.
House 6-0-29-0; Jones 7-1-12-1
CAMBRIDGE LINIVERSITY: First firnings 225 for 3 dec (ET Smith 101, A Singh 52 not ins)

BOWLING, Watten 4-1-10-1; Thomas 3-0-16-1, Croit 4-2-2-0; Hemp 3-1-3-1



Maynard pulls to the boundary during his century at Fenner's yesterday, Photograph: Hugh Routledge

West Indies pace floors New Zealand

better of the opening morning of the first Test match in Bridgetown yesterday, reducing the visitors to 96 for five by lunch.

New Zealand, who were six for three after half an hour. enioved something of a recovery thanks to an aggressive fourth-wicket stand of 80 between Nathan Astle and Adam Parore, before Patterson Thompson, making his Test debut on his home ground, took two quick wickets.

Put in to bat, New Zealand lost both openers with the score on two. Curtly Ambrose

WEST Indies had much the made the breakthrough, removing Craig Spearman without scoring by way of a wicketkeeper's catch. Four balls later, Ambrose's newball partner, Courtney Walsh, struck. Roger Twose, the former Warwickshire batsman. was caught by Robert Samuels, the other newcomer in the West Indies side, at third slip

In his next over, Walsh sent back the dangerous Stephen Fleming. The 23-year-old lefthander's flick off his pads picked out Chanderpaul around the corner at back-

ward short leg.
Astle was the principal ag-

gressor as New Zealand fought back, taking particularly to the bowling of the burly Thompson, Astle, who had been hit on the chin in the opening match of the tour by the fast bowler, lashed him for four fours in his opening over. Thompson, who delivered 12 no-balls all told, was rested after his first two overs had

But it was the 24-year-old Barbadian who broke the partnership. Switched to the South End, Thompson forced Astle to edge to the wicketkeeper. Astle made 54, his highest Test score. He was at the crease for an hour

cost 25 runs.

Lara at first slip. Parore was unbeaten with 23 at the break, having been in for just over an hour and a half. He had hit five fours and faced 50 halls Walsh's two wickets came at a cost of ten runs from seven overs: Thompson, by contrast, had conceded 39 runs from his

and 11 minutes, faced 52 balls

In the same over, Thomp-

son also removed Chris Har-

ris for nought. Harris was unlucky to be given out as the

hall seemed to hit his forearm

rather than the bat or gloves

on its way through to Brian

and hit ten fours.

Umpres B C Cooray (Sn Lanks) and M J Kitchen (England)

Marathon man juggles many records reports that a football club is only for the person named. Any unauthorised dissemina-

failed to salute great men and women when It comes across them, and so let us celebrate this week the amazing Terry Cole, perhaps the most remarkable man that Walthamstow has produced. Cole, 37, runs in the Flora London Marathon tomorrow, but so common a form of madness as mere running is not for Cole Cole's is a high and lonely destiny. He is seeking to break the world record of 3hr 22min 58sec.

You may argue that the world best for a marathon is actually 2hr 06min 50sec, but that is the record for men of small ambition who merely run all the way. Cole has his sights on the world marathon three-ball juggling record, which is held by a Jamaican, Asheretia Foreman.

Breaking a world record will not be a new departure for Cole. He already holds four of them. He is the world recordholder for balancing pint beer glasses on his chin — 50 of them. He holds the world record for balancing (slightly sycophantically. 1 thought) copies of the Guinness Book of Records on his chin, with 28. He has the world record for one-arm press-ups, this being 8,335 in five hours, all on his



SIMON BARNES On Saturday

cludes 11 hours and four minutes of continuous threeball juggling without drop-ping one. Oh, and he once dribbled a basketball for 90 miles, but I do not think that was a record attempt; that was just something you do in your

Reds alert

Marge Schott, old friend of this column and owner of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team, has been at it again. An umpire died during the Reds' first home game of the season. The game was stopped at once, the supporters went home. Schott went on record as blaming the press for the cancellation and saying that she "felt cheated". After inevitable outrage at this, Schott made amends the following day by walking onto the field - naturally with her St Bernard, Schottzie II - to apologise, just as the first pitch was right arm. Finally, he has the about to be thrown. Once

Risky business A press release reaches me

from the British Police rugby league team, which is to tour Australia in June and take part in the police World Cup final in Sydney. I pass on this information at considerable personal risk, but I am like that. For the release concludes: "The information contained in this fax is confidential and intended



Please notify immediately by telephone if this fax has been sent to you in error." Ooh-er.

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Pitch battle

More news from the lawcourts of the United States, where Franz Kafka walks ever more boldly through the world of sport. Diane Hearn, of Pace, Florida, is sueing Terry Pendleton, the baseball player, a hitter formerly with the Atlanta Braves, now with the Florida Marlins, for \$50,000 (about £33,300). She claims that when the Braves were playing at Philadelphia in 1993, Pendleton threw a ball into the stands: a routine goodwill gesture. The ball landed under Hearn's seat. In the scramble for the ball, she claims that she suffered "multiple contusions about the head, body, back and limbs; multiple internal and external injuries to the back and neck resulting in injuries to muscles, nerves. discs, bones and ligaments". She is also sueing the Braves. Her husband is sueing as well, on the grounds that he has

been "deprived of the love.

affection and consortium of

his wife". I will never again

be bought by

Woman rules Australia has been split down

the middle. A woman - you know, not a bloke - has been appointed to a disciplinary tribunal of the sport of Australian No Rules Football. Australia is a bit funny about women, and about women in sport — like all other countries - so naturally the place is in a state of outrage. The woman in question is Elaine Canty, who will be the only woman on the nine-person panel; from this, judges for disciplinary matters are selected in threes. "I could use all the clichés about obstetricians not having had babies and judges not having broken the law," Canty said. She added that it was "a terrific gesture" and that she could smell "a token tart's job from a mile off".

Others were less sanguine. Gareth Andrews, a former player with mighty Geelong, summed matters up with all the acuteness of which an Aussie Rules footballer is capable. "I suspect that women love the rawness. They love the manliness. They love the physicality ... they talk about it the next day just as much as the blokes do -- maybe more. They love being outsiders

CTHERE'S NO NEED TO

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Cecil's filly passes Newbury trial with flying colours

Bosra Sham tightens classic grip

By Julian Muscat

BOSRA SHAM came through where Albaarth faltered when she ran away with the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury yesterday to strengthen her grip on the 1,000 Guineas.

It was a thoroughly professional performance from Bosra Sham, who ensured she will arive at Newmarket as the odds-on favourite for the fourth time in as many career outings. She has now won her races by a combined total of 13 lengths, and it will take an exceptional horse to lower her colours in the fillies' classic on

No horse has yet finished within 31 lengths of her, and none looked likely to yesterday from the moment Pat Eddery shook her from her lethargy to dismiss her nearest pursuer, Dawn, by six lengths. Her opponents were an unexcep-

tional lot: Najiya, her principal opponent, pulled her way out of contention. But that detail aside, it was impossible to fault Bosra Sham.

Remarkably, Henry Cecil, her trainer, suggested Bosra Sham was some way from her peak, "She will be a lot better for the race," he said. "She hasn't quite come in her coat. I've been trying to hold it through the cold weather and she should look very well come the Guineas."

Yet Cecil, ever the realist, warned that the outcome was not a formality, "Classic races take a lot of winning. We must hope the luck goes our way. but I wouldn't swap her for anything else in the race."

If Cecil recognised the pitfalls, Eddery's enthusiasm was more obvious. The 1,000 Guineas is a peculiar omission from Eddery's catalogue of major successes, but the jockey clearly feels Bosra

Sham will rectify matters. This is the best chance I've had of winning the race," he said. "I can't find a chink in her armour and the more I ride her, the more I like her.'

So confident is Eddery that he dismissed the threat of Blue Duster in two memorable

RICHARD EVANS.

Nap: CLAN BEN Next best: Penny A Day (4.40 Ayr)

sentences. "Blue Duster is very fast but I'd be confident of beating her over six furlongs. Mine has so much speed yet she is ideally suited by a mile." Indeed, just about the only glimmer afforded connections of Bosra Sham's opponents is that the filly, a full-sister to the French classic winner, Hector Protector, has excelled on easy

Cecil is unperturbed by the likely fast surface at Newmarket. And Bosra Sham's action does not highlight any cause for concern — she won her maiden on good to firm ground. Although she has it to prove under such conditions. she is unquestionably the one

Bosra Sham, at 530,000

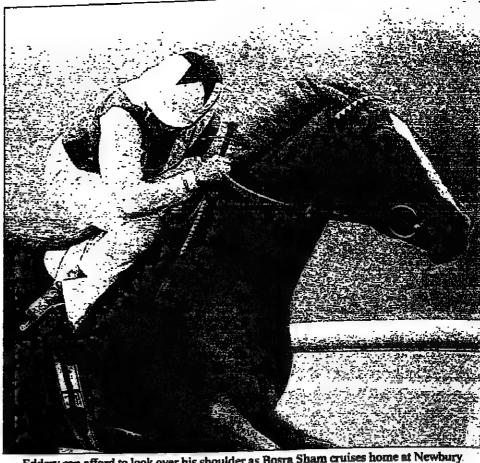
guineas the top-priced yearling sold in Europe in 1994. looks almost certain to miss the Oaks and has been scratched from the betting by William Hill, although Eddery believes Bosra Sham's relaxed attitude may help her get further than a mile.

Bosra Sham's victory consolidated Cecil's gains at the Craven meeting at Newmarket earlier in the week. But the master of Warren Place suffered a reversal in the Peter

when his Set Adrift, backed down to favouritism, was emphatically beaten by Air Quest, a fellow debutant, trained by Roger Charlton.

Charlton landed this race six years ago with Air Quest's full-brother, Quest For Fame, who, of course, went on to triumph in the Derby. But the trainer talked down such prospects for Air Quest, a taller, less mature specimen than his illustrious relation. This rainsoftened ground proved ideal for Air Quest, who looks a resolute galloper.

Chapple-Earlier, Peter Hyam introduced a precocious juvenile in the shape of Daylight In Dubai, who showed too much resolution for Granny's Pet in the closing stages of the Beckhampton Maiden Stakes. Owned by Peter Savill, Daylight In Dubai is bound for Royal Ascot.



Eddery can afford to look over his shoulder as Bosra Sham cruises home at Newbury

Bright Water is clear choice

2.00: Henry Cecil has won previous runnings of this race with Old Vic and Belmez and it will be something of a surprise if Bright Water does not oblige for the in-form trainer. Well regarded at home, he produced high-level maiden form when winning his only start last term and the Derby entrant should relish this trip. Mystic Knight is also entered for the Epsom classic and looks more of a threat than Maiden Castle.

2.30: The ground will be perfect for Moonax, and the 1994 St Leger winner has won first time out for the past two seasons. Commoner, narrowly defeated in the September Stakes at Kempton, looks set for another good season.

3.00: Woodhorough, just below the very best last year and beaten a neck by Danehili Dancer in Ireland. has delighted Peter Chapple-Hyam with his work, but in a tricky heat I just prefer Tagula. Winner of the group rix Morny last year. was below his best after a rushed preparation for the Dewhurst and can show that form to be wrong today.

3.30: A low draw is invariably an advantage here and Clan Ben stands out in stall six. Twice a winner over a mile last term, he was considered good enough by Cecil to run in listed company on his final start last term. This is only the seventh race of his career so there should be further improvement to come. Wilcuma is fairly treated but normally needs his first few runs and Jawaal looks a bigger threat.

CHANNEL 4

2.55: Addington Boy successfully stepped up in class to take the Mildmay Novices Chase at Aintree last time. While he drops back in trip.

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5/1 Morgans Harbour 25/1 Moorcroft Boy

10/1 Toogood To Be True 150/1 Banntown Bill

14/1 Couldn't Be Better 150/1 Majic Rain

14/1 Tartan Tradewinds 150/1 Twin States

16/1 Arthur's Minstrei 200/1 Off The Bru

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ON TELEVISION

Arctic Kinsman, second in the Arkle Chase and winner of a decent Aintree handicap, moves up from two miles and that should suit this otentially top-class chaser. He is just preferred to the Cathcart Chase winner. Challenger Du Luc.

3.25: Alderbrook can gain compensation for his Champion Hurdle defeat. Although Pridwell is 9lb better off after finishing just over eight lengths behind my selection at the Festival, it will be a surprise if the form is reversed. Hotel Minella ran well below form at the Festival but if the Irish raider returns to his best, he could prove the danger.

just as often by horses out of the handicap as by those running off their proper mark and Morgans Harbour can confirm the trend. He only made his seasonal reappearance at Aintree, where he was runner-up to All For Luck, and should appreciate this extended four miles. General Wolfe is one for the short-list along with Lo Stregone, who was forced to miss the Grand National at Aintree because of illness.

NEWBURY

2.00 Mystic Knight 2.30 Murajja 3.00 Danehili Dence 3.30 WILCUMA (nap) 4.00 Copperbeech 4.30 Nash House 5.00 Nosey Native

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Bright Water. 3.00 Danehill Dancer, 5.30 PHANTOM QUEST (nap),

DRAW: 5F-1M STRAIGHT, HIGH NUMBERS BEST TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.00 ARLINGTON INTERNATIONAL RACECOURSE CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O £7.724.1m 3i 5yd) (5 runners)

6521- FLYRSHER 194 (6) (Highciere Thomagainnea), G Lawas 9-1.

- BRIGHT WATER 178 (F) (A Abdulla) H Cacil 8-13

- HIGH BAROQUE 18 (6) (M Tabor) P Chapte-Hyam 8-13

- MADDEN CASTLE 23 (5) (Shelft Moteramed J Gooden 8-13

5311- MYSTIC KNIGHT 190 (F.8) (Lady Oppenhemer) R Charlon 8-13 BETTING: 10-11 Bright Water, 9-4 Maden Caste, 6-1 High Baroque, 8-1 Flytisher, Myslic Kneph 1995; POSICONAS 8-13 T Curon (18-1) P Cale 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

2.30 LANES END JOHN PORTER STAKES

(8) 11/1322- MOONAX 203 (D.G.S) (Godolphin) 8 Hilb 5-9-3 Par Eddary (8) 200011- BLUSHING RAME 188 (D.F.G) (Chevolor Park Sud) M Storie 5-8-12 J Red (3) 12246-4 PLORID 12 (D.G.S) (Itan Howard de Walden) H Cacil 5-8-12 A McGlone (9) 451334- WAYNE COUNTY 210 (CD.F.G.S) (Alex A Naugation) R Alechus 6-8-12 T Comm 51 D12266- COMMONIST 132 (F.S. Ig Maisson IR Hannon 4-8-11 W Carson (1) 11/130- MIRALAM 302 (F.G.S) (Handon Al Mattourn) 8 Hills 4-8-11 L Detton Matth William (1) 11/130- MIRALAM 302 (F.G.S) (Common Al Mattourn) P Wallayn 4-8-11 L Detton MATTH WIS COMMONIST 107 (F.G.S) (Maisson IR Mattourn) 4-8-11 L Detton MATTH WIS COMMONIST 107 (F.G.S) (Maisson IR Mattourn) 4-8-11 L Detton MATTH WIS COMMONIST 107 (F.G.S) (Maisson IR Mattourn) 4-8-11 MARTH MATTH MATCHAM (IR F.G.S) (Maisson IR Mattourn) 4-8-11 MARTH MATCHAM (IR F.G.S) (MAISSON IR MATTH MATCHAM (IR F.G.S) (MAISSON IR MATCHAM (107 (1) 11/1130- MERALIA 302 (F.G.S) (Hamdon Al Makkoum) P Wellwyn e-o-)
208 (1) 103014- MAKED WELCOME 168 (O.F.G) M Fetherslon-Sodiay 4-8 11
208 (7) 121- ZARADI 23J (F.S) (Lady Hams) D Nichotson 4-8-11
210 (10) 221160- HASWAH 182 (O.F. (A Ak) 9 Hambury 4-8-8
211 (4) 2/21313- SPOUT 196 (C.D.G.S) (Lady Rollrockville) R Chariton 4-8-8

.1995: STRATEGIC CHOICE 4-8-11 T Ownn (12-1) P Cale 10 ran FORM FOCUS

BETTING: 3-1 Moorex, 7-2 Bluehag Plame, Spoul, 9-2 Juyush 12-1 Florid, 14-1 others

MOOMAX head 3nd el 7 to Smalegic Cheice in group i Jefferson Smuriti Memorial Irish Si Leger al The Currach (Im 6i, good) on perulumate start. BLIESHING FLAME completed double, best Captes 1'via as 8-mare listed since at Donacole (Im 4i, good to fam) FLORIO 8*44 4th of 12 to Lucky Dr at its led case at Memotion (Im 2i, good) WAYNE COUNTY 10*44 4th of 8 to Rivadien in the group IB Cumberland Ledge Stakes ar Ascot (Im 4i, good) COMMONER short-head 2nd of 7 to Burdo) in group IB Bonusprint September Stakes at Kempton

11m 3, good) with WAYNE COUNTY (2th worse off) 41 3rd, JUYUSH beal Deaydon 31v1 in 6-naved conditions race at Doncaciae (1m 4, soli) MURAJJA 1461 and next 3rd of 5 to Pentre in Ictival race at Checter 1 in 21 79vd, good to lam) on principlinate start. ZABADI, recent hardless warner, beat Calch The Blase short-lessal in conditions race at Nass (71, good to limit) SPOUT beat Saxon Mald 1941 in listed race at Assot (1m 4t, good to solit off penulturale start with HAGWAH 241 6th. Selection, JUYUSH

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS 192 53 234 225 1**99** 107 116 49 121 12 76 45

4.40: Penny A Day looks even better over hurdles than on the Flat and Mary Reveley's dual purpose horse looks to have a very fair mark on his handicap debut. He will not lack for fimess having had two spins on the Flat since winning a valuable race at Kelso seven

RICHARD EVANS

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

learounte in latest race). Going on which house bas, went (F — firm, good to firm, hand. G — good. \$ — 508, good to 508, beary). Owner in brackets Traver Age and weight. Ender plus any allowance The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

BBC1

BBC1

3.00 TRIPLEPRINT GREENHAM STAKES (Group III: 3-Y-0: £19,860; 71 str) (8 runners)

1995; CELTIC SWING 9-6 K Darley (4-9 tim) Lady Hismas, 9 nm

FORM FOCUS

DANIERILL DANCER 2%1 Ord of 4 to Altearth in group 1 Generous Dewhard Status at Newmortes 171, good to firm) with TAGILLA 1%1 and Earlier bear WOODBORDUGH neck in 10-numer group 1 Heart Phoens Status at Leopardisions (6, good to firm) HEARTY THE PRITA 2%1 4th of 10 to Regiment in leaded taxe at Amendian (1m, good) NAHTH ALMAYDAN completed double, when beating traction 6 in 6-numer group is Bonsprint Multi Reef Status here (61, good to soit) on perultiments start. LOMBERTO 1%1 5th of 9 to Tumbleweed

Ridge in group fil Homes Hall States have (7) 64yd, pood to soft) LUCAYAN PRINCE 1:1 2nd of 6 to Dovebace in conditions nee at York (6), good) DANE best either bear Line Dancer 21 in 7-numer conditions has with "Sectionalist if in 8-numer group i Pro Morry Paget at Describe (6), good to possillame start WOODOROUGH 4 2nd of 5 to Royal Applease 4 in group i Middle Park States at Marrayheld (6), goods.

3.30 LADBROKES SPRING CUP HANDICAP (£18,156: 1m 7yd md) (20 runners)

B Doyle 91 R Cochrana 100 D Harnson 186

BETTING: 8-1 Arastura, 10-1 Staterolla, 12-1 Cool Edge, Clan Ben, State Ridge, Ozeni, 14-1 Javago, 16-1 1995: STAR MANAGER 5-8-5 T Quim (20-1) F Cole 20 to

FORM FOCUS

JAWAAL best effort kist season, beat nayvey 31 m 10-rumber listed handicap at York (1 m good) 11 AN REN Less ROYAL PHILOSOPHER (1016 belter off) 31 in 8-numer conditions race at Doncacter (im. good to soft) September 95 WELTON ARSEMAL best Pengamon neck in 8-numer conditions race at Wannesh (71 good) STONE RIDGE best Roving Minister (14 in 34-numer Loncoln Handrag at Doncacter (im. soft) with SHINEROLLA (7th bellar off) 854 4th, WELTON ARSEMAL (7th bellar off) 854 9th

MIGHT DANCE (7th better off) 41 11th and HDH EXPRESS (7th better off) 101 14th DAUNT beal Viyapari 2*91 in 12-runner maiden at Leccate (fire, good) Will CLMAR short-head 2nd of 12 to Smart Generation in handscap hear (fire 1), good to soft with AAR. (6th bester off) 11 9th COOL EXES beat Lyrion Lad 1*41 in 21-runner handscap at Johnston (7th in 7-runner handscap at Johnston (7th in 7-runner handscap at Johnston (7th in 5dt) Leicester (1m. soil)

4.00 NETHERAVON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-0 fillies: £3.688. 51 34yd) (8 runners)

CHERRY BLOSOM (Highestere Thoroughbreds) R Haveon 8-1 CLARA BLISS (G Catchpole) B Mischan 8-17. COPPERBECTI (A City of Dischart 8-11 LIFE ON THE STREET (P Savol) R Havron 8-11 LIFE ON THE STREET (P Savol) R Havron 8-11 ech 7-2 Cherry Bissecth 4-1 Life On The Street, 5-1 Hype Energy, 7-1 Paly Mo

1995; KANDAYU 7-13 S Davies (3-1) M McCormack & ran

4.30 BURGHOLERE MAIDEN STAKES

5.00 LEVY BOARD SEVENTH HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,378: 1m 4f 5yd) (12 runners)

15) 43211-1 ROMAN GOLD 14 (G) (G Teo) R Harson 9-7 .
(4) 6-1 RHANOUS 23 (D,S) (Faird Salman) P Cole 9-6
(7) -5221 NOSEY NATIVE 185 (F) U Furlong) J Peore 9-5
(3) 90-1 PURGAN 9-7 (G) (The Charce) Lord Humington 9-1
(2) 505 5 (21 905- SLA-VIE-NOU 177 (A normal) L Currain 8-13 (1) 22020-0 ALESSURY MILL 12 (R Sampsian P Chapter-Nyam 8-12 (7) 08100-0 XMNESCASH 18 (F.6) (D Windth M Saunders 8-11 (1) 3025-65 AL'S ALISI 12 (Sesses Stud) W Mus 8-10 (8) 000 OLIVER HOCK 204 (Samtiour Bridge) D Chaptel 8-3 (1) (6) 0030-08 WIRE ALT 8 M Fresh M Meach 7-12 (1) 1721 3000-4D ATLANTIC MEST 12 (Wardour Parmers) 8 Alkiman 7-70 (1) (1) 000-606 RIVERCARE 12 (P Storier) M Politica 7-10 Long handicas: Atlantic Mast 7-9, Regresse 7-7

BETTRHG: 11-4 Interroys, 7-2 Pogram Gold, 6-1-Allestoury Hill, 6-5 Mayer, Mather, 6-1 Punish, 10-1, Ele-Yle-Mou. 14-1 Allento: Mod., 16-1 others

1995- MONARCH 8-6 T Quant (8-1) P Cole 8 ten

5.30 BURGHCLERE MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: 3-Y-0; £3,460; 1m str) (14 runners) FORMOASILE FLAME (Mrs R Brown) W Museon 9-0 . O Urbina FORZA RIGLIO (Sind Throrosphereds) Mrs & Kelleway 9-0 . R Cochrane GOLDEN ACE (G Tea) R Hamon 9-0 . Dane O'Nell (3) NJALA LIPIS (Sultan Alvrad Straty) P Cole 9-0 Y Osenn MUTALA LIPS (SIMM AVITAD STRIP) F USE 9-0
MAWARED (Hamden Al Mattourn) J Dunlop 9-0
MISICK HOUSE 233 (R Sangatar) F Diapple-Hyam 9-0
PHANTOM OUEST (R Abdults) H Codi 9-0
SCHRTAR (R Marchine) F Malon 9-0
6-6 CHARLTON INP 16 (H Hodges) R Hodges 8-9
45- GREY GALAVA 279 (Makkourn Al Matrourn) 8 Hills 8-9

BETTING: 5-4 Phinton Cassi 7-2 Musick House, 6-1 Double Blad, Yalman 12-1 Junia Lipts, 14-1 Maximal 16-1 Golden Ace, 20-1 others 1995 LYRIKOS 9-0 W Ryan (14-1) H Cecil 24 ran

THUNDERER

1.55 Blue Charm

2.25 No Pain No Gain

2.55 Challenger Du Luc

4.40 Penny Ā Day 5.10 Scoundrel The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.40 TAROUDANT.

3.25 Chief Minister

4.05 Lo Stregone

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

1.55 ALBERT BARTLETT & SONS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

PP 153 NAUGHTY FUTURE 51 (C.G.S) (A Collins) J.J.D'Aleil 7-11-10 .

(0031) MASTER SANDY 12 (C.F.G) (Miss) Forest 8 Mactagari 9-11-6 .

(0-2310 SHALLOW RIVER 29 (RF.G) (T Collins) R Collins 5-11-5 .

(1-2-36-36 MANDALAY 7 The Aud Altrace J Did 7-11-3 .

(1-333 BLUE CHARM 32 (F) (Miss M Linday) Mis 5 Bradburie 6-10-13 .

(1-333 BLUE CHARM 32 (F) (Miss M Linday) Mis 5 Bradburie 6-10-13 .

(1-347-33 SUPREME SOMET 29 (A Glotmat A Withlass 6-10-10-1 .

(1-364-00 LUCIMAN 145 (RF) (Pamyn Rachag) Mis Miss J Goodleloe 6-10-1 .

(3-364-00 LUCIMAN 145 (RF) (Pamyn Rachag) Miss M Revide 6-10-0 .

(3-365-00 LUCIMAN 145 (RF) (Pamyn Rachag) Miss M Revide 6-10-0 .

(3-365-00 LUCIMAN 145 (RF) (Pamyn Rachag) Miss M Revide 6-10-0 .

(3-365-00 LUCIMAN 145 (RF) (Pamyn Rachag) Miss M Revide 6-10-0 .

(3-365-00 LUCIMAN 145 (RF) (Pamyn Rachag) Miss M Revide 6-10-0 . M Dwyer 92 B Storey 96 R Durmoody 82 6 Upton 96 P Carberry 86 B Handing 89 DOUBTFUL 86

Long handicap, Luciman 3-7, Flores Of Countilane 8-0 BETTING. 6-4 Litaster Sandy 4-1 Haughty Future, 5-1 bitandalay, 7-1 Blue Charm, 8-1 Suprama Soviet 10-1 Shallow River Tough Test, 14-1 others 1995: DEDUCE 6-11-5 N Williamson (6-11 J Waite 11 ran

2.25 B/WISE PRICES BEYOND BELIEF NOVICES CHASE

12:1402 NO PARN NO GAIN 19 (6.5) (Marvellous Pinz) J Gilford 8-12-1... 320213 MONTRAVE 2 (CD.F.G) (0.5) Clan) P Mosterb 7-11-4 F21F22 PAGLIACCO 22 (0.F) (4 Stewart) M Hommond 8-11-9 54-4227 ANOTHER V ROTTURE 14 (Big S.) (8 Wineshell F Monthy 8-11-3 094354 GRAND AS OWT 42 (Migs N Neil) D McCure 6-11-3 BETTING: 6-4 No Pain No Gam, 9-4 Montrare 3-1 Pagliaccio, 6-1 Another Venture, 30-1 Grand As Onli 1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

2.55 EDINBURGH WOOLLEN MILL'S FUTURE CHAMPION NOVICES CHASE (Grade II £13.470; 2m 4f) (6 runners)

| 121U11 | ADDMGTON BOY 22 (D.F.G.S) (Gas Foods List 6 Richards 8-11-10 | C. Lewellyn 92 | 231121 | ARCTIC INISSAMA 21 (G.S) (Ros R Hamton) N Tenden-Dower 8-11-10 | C. Lewellyn 92 | 212131 | C. LALLERGER DU LIUC 37 (S.D.F.G.S) (D. Johnson M Pice 6-11-10 | D. Bridgmatter 89 | C. Lewellyn 97 | Catherny 57 | C. Latter 11-13 | C. Latter 11-14 | C. Latter 1 BETTING: 6-4 Arctic Kineman. 2-1 Actingron Bay. 9-4 Challenger Du Luc. 12-1 Spanish Light. 20-1 Soite. 32-1

1995: DANCING PADDY 7-11-7 9 Darmonty (13-8) K Conningtom-Brown 5 ran FORM FOCUS

ADDRIGTON BOY completed double, bed Anno Ancon "ki in "Frunner grade ii Namm Maldmay Nomics!" Chase at Annice (3m ii, good) ARCTIC KNSMAN bed finer Work: Ward 4 in 10-numer grade ii Martiel Annice Limited Handicap Chase at Annice (3m, good) CHALLENGE DU LUC near an Annice (3m, good) CHALLENGE DU LUC near an Chamber 20 in 4 meter movine chase at Handicap Chase at North 11-numer Canazari Chase at Chebertain (3m 51, good) OSCAIL AN DORAS 8'n1 and of 18 Selection CHALLENGER DU LUC

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS JOCKEYS Rede. 19 151 45 132 131 76 80 mm = 122 mm = 122

3.25 DAILY STAN OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH CHAMPION HURDLE (Limited handicap, grade il: £16,380: 2m) (9 runners)

| D11-12 ALDERBROOK 39 (D.BF.5) (E Pich's K Ballev 7-11-7 |
| 213-PGF PROWELL 21 (D.F.G.5) Libres, Berstock and Fines Plans) M Pipe 6-10-12 |
| 113-PGF PROWELL 21 (D.F.G.5) Libres, Berstock and Fines Plans) M Pipe 6-10-12 |
| 113-PGF PROWELL 21 (D.F.G.5) Libres, Berstock and Fines Plans) M Pipe 6-10-12 |
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Long hapdicapt Muse 10-2, Land Alar 10-0 Staunch Friend 10-0 Absolum a Lady 10-0 Ched Minister 9-5. Escatelugue 8-4 BETTING: 5-4 Alderbrook 5-1 Staurch Friend, 6-1 Holei Minella, Abcatom's Lady 7-1 Priovell, 10-1 Land Abr. 16-1 others 1995: HOME COUNTIES 6-11-2 D J Mothat (7-2) D Mothat 4 can

ALDERBROOK 21:s1 2nd of 16 to Callier Bay in grade I Smarifi Champion Huide at Chellenham (2m 104d, good to soit) with PRIDWELL (86 before oil) 3 40, STALMOH FRIDMELL (186 before oil) 3 40, STALMOH FRIDMELL (186 before oil) 3 10 th LAND ARRI (1716 before oil) 3 10th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head in 11 general and 11 th LAND ARRI (1716 before oil) 3 10th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head in 11 th LAND ARRI (1716 before oil) 3 10th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head for 11 th LAND ARRI (1716 before oil) 3 11th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head for Australia and Long-control oil 11 th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head for 11 th LAND ARRI (1716 before oil) 3 11th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head for 11 th LAND ARRI (1716 before oil) 3 11th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head for LAND ARRI (1716 before oil) 3 11th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head for 11 the LAND ARRI (1716 before oil) 3 11th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head for 11 the LAND ARRI (1716 before oil) 3 10th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head for 11 th LAND ARRI (1716 before oil) 3 10th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head for 11 the LAND ARRI (1716 before oil) 3 10th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head for 11 the LAND ARRI (1716 before oil) 3 10th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head for 11 the LAND ARRI (1716 before oil) 3 10th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head for Absalom's LADY beat Bacagammon head for 11 the LAND ARRI (1716 before oil) 3 10th and ABSALOM'S LADY beat Bacagammon head for Absalom's LADY b

4.05 STAKIS CASINGS SCOTTISH GRAND NATIONAL (Handicap chase grade III: £38,590: 4m 1f) (23 runners)

1006000 TO BE TRUE 12 (F,G.S) (J McGrath T Easterby 8-10-0
1P-5629 MERRY MASTER 35 (B,F.G.S) (G Limsbury) A Herrison 12-10-0
3T-P463 MODICROFT BOY 35 (D,G.S) (K Mordey) D Michelson 11-10-0
P1-21UJ CELLOH BOY 29 (C,F.G.S) (Abr.) Goodeldron Abr. J Goodeldron 10 10-0
222121 STOP THE WALLER 39 (G,S.) (R Burgan) F Morphy 7-10-0
P11P-51 ABERCHOMEN CHEF 67 (G,S.) (I Develson J Joinson 11-10-0
404P54 BOANDING SCHOOL 22 (C,F.G.S) (R Green) C Panter 9-10-0
11-P763 MAJIC RAMP (F,G.S) (D Targe 10 Edg) 11-10-0
334373 MR.S ML 14 (BF,F.G.S) (M Hurst) T Coffiber 11-10-0
1142163 BANNTOWN BL 23 (V,F.G.S) (C Scarbu M Pro 7-10-0
142163 BANNTOWN BL 23 (V,F.G.S) (C Scarbu M Pro 7-10-0
521F24 OFF THE BRU 2 (C,F.G.S) (J Bandourne) Mr.S (Radourne 11-10-0
NY M Brad
1007575 BENGHAZ 11 (S) (A Hourson) A Thorreon 12-10-0
10076757 BENGHAZ 11 (S) (A Hourson) A Thorreon 10 10-6
10076770 (A Hourson) A Hourson 10 10-6
10076770 (A HOURS) A HOURSON 10 10-6
100770 (A HOURSON 10 10-6
10077 P Carberry 75 G Upites: 67 B Storey 60 G Cahill (5) 53

Long handicap. Chatan 9-13. Mongans Harbour 9-9, Arhur s Minched 9-6. Sr. Peter Lete 9-6. General Wotlo 9-5, Tartan Tradewords 9-4. Toogood To Be True 9-3, Merry Master 8-13. Moncroit Boy 6-12, Celebi Boy 5-10, Stop The Walter 8-4. Abercromby Chief 8-2. Boarding School 7-8, Majic Rain 7-8. Mile: Maj 7-8, Twin States 7-7. Samuloum Etil 6-13, Off The Eru 6-13. Benghan 8-5. BETTING: 7-2 General Wollo 9-2 Mergans Marbour, 7-1 to Stregone 10-1 Willstord Toognood To Be True, 12-1 Tartan Tradramos, Coulon Pe Berry, 16-1 others

1995. WILLSFORD 12-10 12 R Farrant (16-1) Mrs J Párnan 22 ran

FORM FOCUS

COULDN'T BE BETTER 23 3rd of 10 is longuaged.

Call in grade 1 fole Gold Cup at Chebroham (3m 2)
1 floyd roods on penultriate start. LO STREGONE
bezt TARTAN YEARN 15th better off) 5 in grade
ill Greenard; Grand Rational Trial Handcap Chase at
httpoolo (3m 4) 10 ord 2001 mm WILLSFORD
rece the face bet year (9th better off) 50 and
CHATAM 201 3rd of 10 to Mairma in Hrt. Club
Rational Hint Handcap Chase at MoRicaNS
HARBOUR 201 3rd of 10 to Mairma in Hrt. Club
Rational Hint Handcap Chase at MoRicaNS
HARBOUR 201 3rd of 10 to Mairma in Hrt.
Son of 1995, 12 and of 12 to Advance
Also 294 in 7-tunnes laundcap chase at Wetherby
(3m 110nd qued) MERRY MASTER. 2nd in this
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(3m 110nd qued) MERRY MA

4.40 SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS HANDICAP HURDLE (\$7,181° 2m 4f) (12 runners) 11-6P2 ARROWOLF 189 (6.5) (Liety Carella Dempater's C Broate 5-11-10
003353 WHITE WILLOW 11 (F.S) (H North Mrs M Revoley 7-11-9 Mr M H
103013 COORT MARE 19 (CIC.6) (Down J Dun 9-11-6
002-PP3 TAROUDANT 17 (D.G) (G Fandon's N Woodheste 9-11-6 ...
111 PENNY A DAY 14F (C.G.S) (J Good) Mrs M Revoley 6-11-4 ... | 111 | PEMNY & DAY 14F (C.G.S) (J Good) Nos M Reveley 6-11-4... | J Cadigham | 15-121F | MORECASANA & F.G.S) | A Windows (J.G.S) | A Moreca Salva & F.G.S) | A Windows (J.G.S) | A Window Long transicap Well Appointed 9-10 Nicholas Plant 9-2 BETTANG: 5-2 Powny A Clay 5-1 Aries Mole 6-1 Montcerran 7-1 Aerolmott 8-1 Copyr Lane. Whate William, 10-1 Burni lang 12-1 others 1995; MASTER OF TROY 7-9-9 Nr D Parket (12-1) C Parket 7 ran -

FORM FOCUS

WHITE WILLOW 844 3rd of 5 to Eszadjan in handicap huntle at Wetherby (2m 41 1994, good CDOUI LAME 441 3rd of 10 to Eszadjan in handicap huntle at Meste (2m 61 1994 good to term) with DANCANG DOVE (2m better off) 845 5h TAROLIDANT 101-15 th of 9 to Plying Instructor in handicap huntle at Ascot (2m 110yd good to hum). PENNY A DAY, unbesten over hundles bead Direct Route 154 to 13 money oniver hundles the Rebix (2m 21, good to soit). BURNIT IMP about 41 4m of 9 to Carley Lod in handicap hundle at Newcastle (3m

cott) MONICASMAN best Just N' Ace St et 18runter govice handle at Newbury 12m 110yd good
to soft) on penditimate start ARPER MOLE 7451 sit
of 16 fo Outset in handleap hardle at Antine (2m)
41 good) HIGH MIND 51 2nd of 8 to Shorikashia in
handleap hardle at Aqr (2m good) WELL APPONTED best Urban Deneury 51 fo 10-runnet
handleap hardle at Carleste (2m 11 form), NICHOLAS PLANT 2241 51 of 10 to Carnetto or handcap hardle at Herbarn (2m 41 110yd, soft)
Selection, PENNY A DAY (nap)

5.10~st andrews sportswear company future champion standard open national hunt flat race (£1,805 2m) (20 runners)

BETTIME: 7-2 Maretto, 9-2 Ben Crustran 6-1 Sepantister 7-1 Water's Dream, 8-1 Scoundtel, 14-1 Bold Romea 16-1 other; 1995 NO CORPESPONDING RACE

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY. Brighton (2.00 slart) Hexharn (2.20), Nottinghern (2.10) TUESDAY Chepslow (2.10), Folke-stone (2.00), Pontelract (2.20) WEDNESDAY, Catterick Bridge (2.29), Perth (2.40), Southwell (AW 2.30) THURSDAY: Boverley (2 10), Fontwell Park (2 20) Porth (2 00) FRIDAY, Cariste (2.10), Ludlow (5.45), Perth (2.20), Sandown Park (C4. 2.00) Taurilon (5 30)

SATURDAY: Market Rusen (2.10). Leteoster (2.00), Ripon (2.05), Sandown Park (mixed C4. 2.15), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00). Worse ser (5.45). Flut meetings in best



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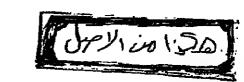
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Personal vendettas tearing game apart

WHATEVER the cost in bruised egos, it is high time the dispute between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the leading English clubs was resolved. Too much damage has been done to the sport's image by a highly public squabble and more may yet be sustained to its fabric should potential investors choose to look elsewhere.

Nothing is more important to the RFU than this. Without a unified front, every one of its activities is affected, be it negotiations worth millions over television - with or without its five nations' partners - or youth development officers around the regions endeavouring to encourage youngsters into a game evidently at odds with itself.

Yet this week there has been no movement to break the impasse. An informal fourhour meeting at the start of the week between Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU's executive committee, and Donald Kerr, chairman of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (EPRUC), only left the sides further apart while the conference at Twickenham this weekend of the constituent bodies of the RFU, the counties, was apparently deemed of

greater significance. This is a ludicrous state of affairs, even allowing for the extraordinary situation this season of a game translating itself from amateurism to professionalism. The sides

David Hands says that the protagonists must step aside to resolve rugby union's dispute

have been polarised by the emergence of personalities above issues and if progress cannot be achieved any other way, then those personalities should be removed from the stage. The clubs have already made it abundantly clear that they cannot do business with Brittle; equally, the RFU resents what it perceives as interference from Sir John Hall, chairman of Newcastle United Sporting Clubs and

now a leading player in rugby. However, the RFU is in a cleft stick over Brittle. Last year it created the position of chairman precisely to meet the day-to-day demands of its burgeoning sport and relieve the president of some obligations; Peter Bromage died a week after taking office which forced a divisive election, won overwhelmingly by Brittle. To override his position now smacks of a blow in the face of

democracy. Yet the game in England is far bigger than a handful of individuals. No one was more critical of the RFU's fumbled first special general meeting this year than David Hiles, secretary of Pinner and Grammarians, and no one ceded with better grace the improvement made before the second

meeting.
This row appears to be

tearing our game apart," he said. "The feeling among the junior clubs is that the senior clubs can't do it all alone, if they try. We must have a unified game, one governing body and no splinter groups. I think the RFU are right to try to retain overall control but they don't seem to get to grips with everything in detail.

Whether they have the manpower and the capability

to organise these competitions from the centre, I'm not sure. Someone has to take on a coordinating role so we don't get a clash of interests. On the money side, my sympathies are with the clubs. Handouts are fine in the short term but sustaining the game over the years is a different kettle of

Bill Bishop, the RFU presi-dent, has been added to the negotiating team and he must exert the authority of his office and hammer out an agreement, without Brittle on the union's side and without Sir John among the clubs. The RFU set a precedent for a change in emphasis this year when Bishop chaired the first special general meeting but left the second to be steered. not by Brittle but by Bob Rogers, a leading committeeman. What has been done once can be done again.



Sella will lead an international XV against Leicester at Twickenham tomorrow

Supporters give final verdict on professional era

THE predicted attendances at Twickenham today and to-morrow provide a timely commentary on the public perception of rugby union: the CIS county final this afternoon between Warwickshire and Gloucestershire will be fortunate to attract five figures while more than 30,000 are expected for the Sanyo Cup challenge match between Leic-ester and an international XV. One is the culmination of the traditional game, the other a product of the professional era, the need to generate cash, for Twickenham to pay its way and parade stars before a public increasingly seeking entertainment and heedless of

what has gone before. As it happens, the match tomorrow could not now have come at a worse time for Leicester, embroiled as they are in the hectic climax to the Courage Clubs Championship season, trying to claw back Bath's advantage at the top of the table, which may be ex-tended if Bath win heavily

against Orrell today. With both clubs having played 16 games and lost twice. Bath lead on points difference by 52, but they have never beaten Orrell by more than three points at Edgehall Road in the league. Whether playing at Wigan's Central Park ground will make a difference remains to be seen

ASCOT:

5.15 Fine Sir. 5.45 Flaplack Lad. 8.15 Synder-borough Lad. 6.45 Wild Strawberry, 7.15 Nemuro. 7.50 Intermagic.

5.45 STOATS TAIL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

4 4271 ESPAN DE DAMON 19 (D.F.) Missa C -10-11. In Blamons
5 1927 STAR OF DAMON 12 (V.F.)0 Missa C Barre 10-10-5. I Limentonia
6 1927 STAR OF DAMON 12 (V.F.)0 Missa C Barre 10-10-5. I Limentonia
7 373 F TLAPLACK LAD B (S. N. TENDON-12-10-10-10)
8 OP41 CRACKLING FROST 12 (G. Miss D House 5-10-0 Mis R Waldey (7)
9 1956 SHATAT 31 (F. N. Chepman 8-10-1. W Wordshippion
10 5070 Mishay The LACKDOMN 12 (V.F.) P Boster 9-10-0. IB Februs (3)
11 4273 UPWARD SURGE 14 (F) R Lindger 6-10-0. Miss N Lindger
12 677 MAYSMITH 46 (F.G.) J Position 10-10-0. Miss N Lindger
12 677 MAYSMITH 46 (F.G.) J Position 10-10-0. P Crossiby (7)
3-1 Mir Prinsibring, 7-2 Hierbert Buchsman, 6-1 Rive En Rose 7-1 Sair Di David.
8-1 Smilling Ched., 10-1 Fleepasta Led., 12-1 others

6.15 TRICOLOUR AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP

1 2400 BAS DE LAIRE 23 (F.6) O Shannood (0-12-0 ... A Harvey (7) 2 1323 HARNOEL LAO 25 (F.6.5) R Alore 7-11-9 ... R Nutah (7) 3 -4F4 SYMDERBOROUGH LAD 22 (CD.F.6) 5 Prior 10-11-9 9 Mullouine (7)

3 --ar-s STRUCHSCHOUGH LAD 27 (GD.F.S) 5 Pilos 10-11-9

4 -341 BUCK WILLOW 12 (D.F.O.S) J Ballord 12-11-6

5 SPEF GIVLS A BUCK 14 (B.D.F.O.S) D Exercise 13-10-13 E James (7)

5 5P12 RILL OF RIE 12 (D.F.S) K Balloy 9-10-8 ... M Amylasis

7 PPP4 POLAR REGION 14 (D.F.G.S) N Heroteron 10-10-6 C Vigora (3)

8 -62P DESPERATE 24 (B.S.5 D Shermond B-10-7.... P Scott (7)

9 1021 VICOSA 13 (F.S) R Abus 7-10-5 ... P Herotey (5)

10 6-03 SEMBOLE PRINCESS 12 (6) C Herotey 8-10-0 Alexa A Dudiny (7)

11 0PP3 NILLO BOY 7 M Chapman 5-10-0 M Mackley (7)

9-4 Buck Willow, 3-1 Full Of Pay 5-1 Vicosa, 8-1 Bas Da Lame, Despende, Polar Region, 10-1 Herotel Lind, 12-1 others.

THUNDERER

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

(£3,826: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

(£3;956: 2m 3f 110yd) (12)

CHASE (£4,572: 3m 110yd) (11)

ity value than did Leicester last month, since it is Bath who play Wigan in the crosscode two-match series next

The county final will give Tim Smith the opportunity to play a last game at Twickenham before he retires. At 33, Smith, a scaffolder, is the epitome of the game as it was: a whole-hearted full back, sometimes a match-winner with his goalkicking, which has helped him to 2,737 points over 14 years with Gloucester. He is part of the first Gloucestershire team to contest a final since 1984, whereas Warwickshire are holders and

favourites.
Profits from Leicester's match against an international XV coached by Bob Dwyer, of Australia, will be shared among all the first-division clubs though, given the divi-sions between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and its leading clubs, it is ironic that this match started life as a celebration of 125 years of rugby at Twickenham and that the visitors were billed as an RFU President's XV.

Still. Philippe Sella. the world's most-capped player. will lead a XV drawn from II countries that will match the Underwood brothers, Rory and Tony, against each other

Jukes and Jones keep Welsh flag flying in title race

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

LOCAL pride, a key ingredient in this parochial sport, is of little consequence when compared with a country's honour and Welsh patriotism is spurring on Jamie Jukes and Pip Jones in their respective title

It is 13 years since a Welsh rider, John Llewellyn, won a national championship but recovers quickly. Jukes, a timber merchant from Penrhiwlian in Dyfed, is behind Jones after winning on making steady progress towards the leaders in the men's

championship.

He fully justified the journey from his home to the

Tiverton meeting in Devon on

Wednesday by riding a double on Dauphin Bleu and Otter Mill, the latter for Oliver Carter.

Those victories took his tally to 15, three behind Alastair Crow and Andrew Parker. However, he seems likely to be awarded another victory after an inquiry at Portman Square on Wednesday when his second place on The Rum Mariner at the Brecon will be promoted if it is found Lislary Lad did not carry the correct

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penalty. Today, he rides at the Pentyrch meeting and tomorrow teams up with redoubtable trainer Bert Lavis for at least five rides at the Pembrokeshire, where Cedar Square is one of his likely

Gamer good to set 2.10 (51 34yd) 1, Daylight in Dubai (K Darley, Evens tav); 2, Granny's Pet (7-4); 3, Reterendum (14-1), 13 ran. 2, 31 P Chapple-Hyam, Tole: 22.10; 24.0, 21.10, 22.10 DF: 22.20. Trio: E7.60, CSF: 23.14.

zz 10 DF: £2.20. Trio: £7.60. CSF: £3.14. 2.40 (1m 3f.5rpd) 1, Air Quest (Par Eddery, 100-30; Richard Evans's nap); 2, Sei Adrift (15-8 tav); 3, Smilin N Wishin (100-30), 11 ran. 51, hd R Chariton Tote: £3.60; £1.90. £1.40, £1.30. DF. £3.50. Trio: £3.60 CSF. 63.77

93 77 3.10 (7/ 64yd) 1, Boara Sham (Pal Eddery, 2-9 fax, Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Keepers Dawn (66-1); 3, Sil Sila (33-1), 9 ran 6, 2t. H Cecil. 100: £1 20; £1 00; £2 70, £3 60 DF £70 30 Trio: £517 70 CSF: £19 37

\$517 70 CSF: £19 37
3.40 (1m1), Therhos (T Quent, 9-2); 2, Polar Prince (8-1), 3. Carburlon (2-1 tay), 7 can. \$5, 38; 8 Milliman Tota £5,70; £3.00, £2.70, DF: £38 20, CSF: £34.30
4.15 (7h); \$58tin Bell (R Hughes, 14-1), 2. Aunty Jane (11-2), 3. Dwine Quest (7-2 itay) Taking Libertes 7-2 ji-tay, 17 can. 3ki, 8. J. Dunlop, Tota; £21 90, £3.60, £2.00, £2 10, OF £63 00 Tho £121 80, CSF. £34.35.

194.35.
4.45 (St 34yd) 1. Arzio (R Cochrane, 6-1);
2. Top Barianta (6-1); 3. Danng Destury (101), Lord High Admiral 9-2 tav. 13 ran MR
Macfariane, Speniards Close 41, 391,
Mass G Kallevey, Tota, 98.30; (2.30. £1 80,
44.50 DF 229.30 Tho: £138.00. CSF;
128.35. Tricust £336.35

5.15, (2m) 1, Kadestrof (Dene O'Neill, 6-1); 2, Kamikas (33-1); 3, Corradini (2-1 lev) 8 ran. 6l, 111 R Dickin, Tote: \$7 40; 21.70, 22.30, 21.30 DF, 632.70, CSF; \$102.35. Tricost £390.56.

Tricast £390.56.
Jackpot £80.421,50 (0.9 winning ticlets. Pool of £5,693.17 carried forward to Newbory today).
Placepot: £84.80. Ousdpot: £53.60.

Soing: good to firm

Soing: good to firm

2,15 (Im) 1. Rambo Walkzer (Alex Greaves. 3-1 tav); 2. Wentbridge Lad (20-1); 3. Chairmans Choice (8-1); 4. Edger Kriby (8-1) 16 ran MR. Master Charter, Scorpus Hd, nk D Nichola Master Charter, Scorpus Hd, nk Master Charter, Scorpus Hd, nk

result stood. 2.50 (6f) 1, Golden Pound (K Fallon, 9-2); 2, Badoys First (5-1); 3, Alemon (11-10 lav). 6 ran. 3, hd. Miss G Kellestry Tote: £4 50, 21 50, £2.70. DF: £7 60 CSF: £25.21.

S.20 (St) 1, Jennelle Li Stock, 13-8 teel; 2, 10 cts 1 seek; 24 cts 1

CLOUDT ENTO COL. 1990

∄hirsk

winners. Jones will be an anxious

Newbury

Going: good to soft

speciator, having ridden a double last week which took her to the head of the national women's table with 20 winners. A subsequent fall required hospital treatment and she is ruled out until next week at the earliest. Handsome Harvey, her best ride, is being kept back in the hope she

Polly Curling is now four Flaked Oats at the Tiverton fixture, where Rupert Nuttall and Shirley Vickery rode doubles. Curling partners Still In Business at the Aze Vale today and Qannaas at the Isle Of Wight tomorrow. Today's feature race is the

men's open at the Worcestershire for the Lady Dudley Cup. Lochingall, Bankhead and Fiddlers Three all miss the race and Lighten The Load could take advantage. Being trained in Wales, he will not

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Asis Valie, Stafford Cross, 3m west of Sasion (first race 1.30); Bedsle & West Of Yore, Hornby Castle, 3 of Cattenck (2.00); Dertmoor, Rete Park. 10m E of Phymouth, 1r A379 (2.00); Essex & Suffolk, Higham & NE of Colchester (2.00); Holcombe Herriers, Whitington, 2m SW of Kirby Lonsdale (2.00); Pentyrch, Liantwit Masor, 2m NW of town (2.00); South & West Wills, Larkhill, 4m N of Amesbury (2.00); Worcestershire, Chaddesley Corbett, batween Bromsgrove & Kidderminster (2.00) TOMORPHOW: Grafton Mellington, 5m N Banbury (200), tale Of Wight, Tweseldown, 3m W of Aldershot (1.00): Meynell & South Statis, Sandon, 4m SE of Stone (200), Pambrokeshire, Lydstep, 3m SW of Tenby (200); Southdown & Eridge, Masthfield, 1m E of town (200).

3.50 (SI) 1. Angeer (D Hamson, 8-11; 2, French Grit (9-11; 3, Here Comes A Stor (18-1), Scienter 7-4 lav 8 ren. Hd. nk A Stewart. Tole 57:00, 52:40, £1:70, £3:40 DF: £44 10, CSF, £53.51

OF: E44 10. CSF. E53.51
4.25 (fm. 4) 1. Benasom (A McGlone, 11-8), 2. Nayıb (8-1), 3. Clerkerwel (8-11 tay), 7 ran Nk. 11l H Cecil. Totar 52.20; 21.20. E2.70. DF: E9.40 CSF 512.91 Clerkerwell firshed second but after a stewards incury was placed third. 4.55 (74). Descellent Addition.

Sizweros incury was picces serio 4.55 (7t) 1, Primo Lera (M Henry, 5-41av), 2, Ochos Ros (16-1); 3, Nashaai (14-1); 4, Señurstpark Flyer (14-1), 16 ran 3/4, 11 P Henrs Tole: £2.20; £1.10, £3.50, £3.10, £3.00, DF-£27.40 Tho. £169.50 CSF-£26.82 Tricast: £229.38.

Placepot: £108.90. Quadpot: £61.20.

Going: good to soit (soft in places)
2.00 (3m 110)d hdie) 1, Cettic Glant (T Resd, 4-1), 2, Spacesage Gold (14-1); 3, Bold Account (8-1) Baronet 2-1 (1-tav Bran. Mt, St. L. Lungo. Tote: £2.70; £1.10, £2.80, £1.30 DF: £3.10 CSF £46.68. 2.35 (2m hdie) 1, Cittadino (M Foster. 12-1); 2, Pennsse Lad (7-2), 3, Suptema Genotin (7-4 fau) 8 nn 5, kii C Thornton. Tote: £10.10; £2.00. £1.40, £7.50. DF: £1.410. Tric: £16.10. CSF: £84.41.

£14.10. Irlo: £16.10. USF: £48.41 \$.05 (2m 4f ch) 1, Major Bell (A Dobbin, 11-4 pi-4vi); 2, Five To Seven (11-4 pi-4vi); 3, Old Bridge (10-3) 6 ran. 7. dist. A Whitaris. Tote: £3.50, £1.70, £1.90 DF £3.80, CSF: \$29.36

2.5.35 (3m 11 ch) 1. Merlin's Lad (M A Rizograid, 7-2), 2. Savoy (1-2 lau); 3. Seeling Gold (16-1), 4 ran Nk, 10t. J. Edwards, Total C3 00. DF: £1.50. CSF-£5.61

\$5.61
4.05 (2m ch) 1. Dear Do (M A Fitzgerald, 5-2 lav), 2. One For The Pot (9-1): 3, Newtands-General (11-4), 6 ran. ki, %i N Henderson, Tote: 22 80, 52.00, 52.10 DF: 59.10 CSF: £19.87

23 10 CSF: £19 87
4.35 (2m hdis) 1, Miss Greenyards (D Perker, 4-1 fav), 2, Current Speace (8-1); 3, Sarmatian (11-2) 12 ran, 3, 41, A Whitians Tote: £7.80: £2.90, £2.10, £1.60 DF £27.30 Inc: £25.80 CSF £36.78 Incast £170.94.

Placepot. \$257.40. Quadpot: \$21.20.

☐ Kieran Fallon was sus-

pended for six days (April 29-May 4 inclusive) for irres-ponsible riding on Clerken-

well in the Sowerby Maiden

Stakes at Thirsk yesterday.

Clerkenwell finished second to

Benatom but after a stewards

inquiry was placed third.

Going: good to solt (soft in places)

VESTERDAY'S RESULTS

THIRSK

THUNDERER

2.15 Caviar And Candy. 2.50 Soldier Mak. 3.20 Tenor. 3.50 Remooz. 4.20 Venture Capitalist. 4.50 Nose No Bounds. 5.20 Cashmere Lady. 5.50 Betzao.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.15 KNAYTON CLAIMING STAKES

ı	(2-Y-0: £2,653: 5f) (8 runners)
	7 JRS JAS D Nicholls 9-3 Alex Granvas 3 2 60 THE REE MAIN 2 M W Easterby 8-13
ı	3 LOXI EY'S GERL M W Easterby 8-8. Date Gloson 7 4 CAPITS AYMONT R Fabor 8-6. A Cultisage 1
ı	5 343 GAVIAR AND CANDY BID Coopers 8-4 M Henry (5) 4 6 5634 CHILLED WINE 8 N Bycroft 8-4
I	7 42 DANCONG STAR 12 P Exers 8-2
ŀ	3-1 Dancing Star, 7-2 Canar And Candy 5-1 Jib Jab Childed Wine, 7-1 The Bee Lieu 8-1 (refer to 5-1 17-1 others

	••
	0 F0
_	7 MI DEGING SHEETING DATE OF
П	L.UU KALING CHANNEL KATENE KELA
	MAINEN CTANCE 13L. I. 03 400, 741 401
	MAINER 9144E9 (NIV EX.400; (1) (3)
	2.50 RACING CHANNEL RATING RELA MADDEN STAKES (DIV I: £2,408: 71) (9)

JEN 6	OTHERE (DIK I EX'400' II) (2)	
556-	CALLERS 1931 IV Brichowns 5-9-10	des (5) 1
5330	YOUNG BERSON 12 H Uthanan 4-9-10	Carter 2
30-0	YOUNG BENSON 12 B Cobbston 4-9-10	Mans 3
3-00	HARRY'S TREAT 18 J Eyrs 4-8-7 D Ps	ars (3) 6
04-0	MELLORS 12 J Tollor 3-8-11	Fallon 4
40-3	MAKHAL 25 (V) D laturary Smith 3-8-11	P Hate 7
8-00	D95 Y 16 5 Huston 3-8-17	Perbaco 5
000-	SOLDER MAX 165 4 Hads 3-8-11 M	lebbud B
054	SUPERMISTER 231 T Easterby 3-8-11	idhana 9
	I-2 Young Senson, Medians, Only 7-1 Supermeter, 8-1 Him	
ner i se	Re Flyer, 12-7 others.	
_	and solders and a decountry	

	3.7	20	THOMAS LORD HANDICAP (£6,368: 5f) (18
i	1	04/	LAUREL DELIGHT 619 (D.F.G) J Sany 6-10-0 P Roberts (5)
1	2	99-	FOR THE PRESENT 335 (F.S.) I Barron 6-9-11 J Forton
1	3	45-2	LADY SHERRET 7 (CO.BF.F.G) B Hothrohead 5-9-5 F Lynch (
ł	1 4	03-1	LATCHING 12 (6) 9 Johnson Houghton 4-9-4 R Hit
ı	5	5-00	FANTASY RACING 12 (D.F.S.S) M Channell 4-8-4 Candy Month
1	i i	60-0	CALL ME I'M BLUE 12 (D.G.S) N Tinter 8-9-2 The
	7	6-00	SADOLEHOME 12 (D.F.G.S) T Barron 7-9-2 J Farmi
	i i	00.0	MISIOER TRADER 12 (V.D.F.S) Miss J Hamsden 5-8-0 . K Fall
ı	ĭ	113	
-1	16		RUYAL DOME 199 (D.F.S) M Wate 4-8-10 J Como
	11		LA SUGUET 2 (0,5) N Tinkler 4-8-10
	12		SEAU VENTURE 12 (D.F.G.S.) F Lee 8-8-5 R Laps
	13	1400	SHADOW JURY 12 (B.D.F.G.S) D Chapman 8-8-3 . L Chamo
	14		JUST DISSOCRIT TO IA R White 4-7-12 Date Sibs
	15	22.0	STUFFED 12 (C,BF,F) M W Easterby 47-12 JF Ega
	15	-700	STEPHENSONS ROCKET 10 (8,CO.F.8,8) D Nicholis 5-7-10
	16	700	SIELLICIONAS LIGINET IN INTERPLINIÓ D MANTE S.I. IR
			JOAN

3.50 THIRSK CLASSIC TRIAL CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-0: £9,470: 1m) (7)
1 S21- TAMHID 185 (F) H Transport Jones 9-5
8 114 RAMOOZ 195 (O.F.S) B Hantony B-11

4.20 MICHAEL FOSTER MEMORIAL CONDITIONS STAKES (£5,790: 61) (7) 1 00-3 VENTURE CAPITALIST 21 (CD.F.S) D Nichols 7-9-12

01-1 CARRANTA 21 (D.F.Q.S) B Pelang 6-9-7. J Carrol 6
000- DOUBLE BLUE 189 (C.D.F.Q.S) M Johnston 7-9-7 J Wesver 3
0-45 CASTILEREA LAO 10 (D.F.E) R Hollechead 7-9-0 T Ness 7
80-1 ATRAP 16 (D.F.S) 0 Morley 3-9-11 R Holls 1
126- MAZEED 231 (D.F) H Tromcon Jones 3-9-11 S Carrier 4
426- NO MONKEY NUTS 169 (D.F.) J Berry 3-8-3 P Pessey (6) 2 -4 Aimi, 7-2 Double Shim, 4-1 Caromula, 9-2 Venture Capitalest, 8-1 Missend, 16-Inclients Led. No Moniary Note:

4.50 BUSINESS FURNITURE CENTRE LIMITED STAKES (£3,134; 1m 4f) (11)

34 56 7 8 9	30-5 000- 00-6 23-6 40-8 -130 6-26	DVDRAK 51 (0.F) R Hams 5-9-8. A Mackay 5 CONTRAVEE 12 (F.O.) W Javot 49-7. M Heavy (5-00 Mayer) 12 (BF.O.S) H Heavy (5-00 Mayer) 12 (BF.O.S) H J J Ceel 49-7. J Weaver 3 PSNCY PARROT 152 R Whiteler 4-9-7. A Cultume 10 ROYRAGE 18 W Britsbourne 4-9-7. G Carlier 7 TESSA-IDE 14 (D.F.O.) M Centractio 4-9-7. L Chemock 4 BALIOS 12 (BF.O.) M Johnston 3-8-4. J Finning 9 MoSE MO BOUNDS 2 (BM M Johnston 3-8-2. T WHITELER 11
	5-26	BALIOS 12 (BF,G) M Johnston 3-8-4 J Fanning 9 NOSE NO BOUNDS 2 (6) M Johnston 3-8-2 T Williams 11 CELIOH STAR 193 B Hills 3-7-13 J F Egan 6
		5-1 Couldn Sax, 6-1 Damappel, 7-1 Fazzar, Nose No Bounds, 8-1

5.20 LEVY BOARD FILLIES HANDICAP (£3,925: 1M) (13)

	D-25	LUCCORS CURSUL 6 ICUT DI 7 NOIMIN 6-3-13 . 3 PUI INI
2	500-	MA PETITE ANGLAISE 175 (D.F.G) W Janes 4-9-11
		T Thomas (7)
3	-81	CASHMERE LADY 38 (D.C.) J Eyro 4-9-9 R Lappin 1 GLOWING JADE 18 (D.F.S.) J Glove 6-9-0 G Carner
4	6-00	GLOWING JACE 18 (D.F.S) J Glover 6-9-6 G Carter
5	120-	GYMCRAK FLYER 209 (D.F.G) G Holmas 5-8-10 K Fallon
6	105-	THREE ARCH BRIDGE 201 (B,D,F,B) M Johnson 4-8-10
		J Wisaver
7		CLASSIC ROMANCE 182 (B) R Hards 3-8-9 A Mackey
8		ANGEL CHARES 182 (8) J Banks 3-1-9 J Stack (3)
9	00-0	HEY UP DOLLY 9 (B,C,G) JJ O'Well 4-8-4 JF Egan 1
10		PENDLEY ROSE 205 P Harris 8-7-10 J Quinn 1
11		ALFAYZA 218 (F) J Bethell 3-7-10 D Wright (3) 1
12		DANCE OF JOY 12 (D,G) J Carr 4-7-10 N Kennedy
13	00-0	MUSS PRON HEART 18 to Congrove 4-7-10 Ni Baird (5)
Cas	de Charles	Lady, 6-1 Three Arch Bridge, 7-1 Ma Patte Anglaine, 8-1 Done
had	Alima	Arcai Chiront, 10-1 Bernank Firer

5.50 RACING CHANNEL RATING RELATED

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
1 -022 BACKHANDER 18 M Ware 49-10	d
2 334- BELZAO 285 M Charmon 3-8-11	ı
3 00-0 FINISTERRE 24 J J O'Med 3-8-71 J F Equ	n
4 00-5 MANOY 12 J Heitherton 3-8-11 N Kenned	
\$ 00-5 TOE TAPPEN MUSIC 17 M Meads 3-8-11 V States	ř
6 -344 CLASSIC BEAUTY 36 R Hants 3-8-8 A Madia	ŕ
7 6500 SCENICRIS 11 R Hollinshead 3-8-8 F Lynch (5	ň
7 6500 SCENICRIS 11 R Hellinshead 3-8-8 F Lynch (5 8 048- SIS GARDEN 168 T Easterby 3-8-8 M Bird	ń
9 000- WILLISA 182 J Bethell 3-8-5 J Weave	ŕ
7-4 Betzan, 4-1 Bacthander, 5-1 William, 6-1 Sts Gardon, 8-1 Spaniers, 19	n.
Classic Benuty, Too Tapon Music, 12-1 others.	_
CHEST DOING! 100 HISPAI MADE, 12-1 ORGAN	

COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRAINERS. H Ceal. B winners from 21 rumers, 38.1%; Mrs. J Ceal. 3 from 9, 33.3%; P. Hille, 4 from 13, 30.8%, M. Camacho, 5 from 19, 26.3%, W. Jarvis, 4 from 16, 25.0%; B. Harbury, 4 from 21, 19.0%, JOCKEYS: R. Hills. 12 winners from 50 runers, 24.0%, W. Ryen, 9 from 43, 20.9%; J. Weaver, 17 from 87, 19.5%, O. Pears, 4 from 28, 14.3%, K. Fallon, 11 from 89, 12.4%, A. Modione, 3 from 25, 12.0%.

10 4512 JAVA SHRME 12 (D.F.) J Tuci 5-10-8 8 Molleili
11 6001 VERDE LUNA 12 (F.) D Arbushnot 4-10-7 JF Tidey
12 002P PORTISCATHO 7 Mess J Doyle 4-10-7 S Corres
13 6304 ZMGGBAR 12 (V.D.S.) J Bassley 4-10-7 Mess Pargerald
14 5006 SAN DEED CHARLES 12 A Research 5-10-6 Sophie Michael (F)
15 PSO2 LUMANNATHA 12 M/S E Hooth 8-10-4 Mess JM J Horty (F)
16 00F0 CHILDREN'S CHOICE 31 (BF) C Allen 5-10-4 Mess JM J Horty (F)
17 8-00 B MY LOYELY 17 D O'Nest 6-10-3 G Hogan (3)

9-2 Tempestellon, S-1 Cyrus The Great, 6-1 Eben At Habreth, 7-1 Poly Americka. 8-1 Lournastia, Westeby, 10-1 Our Robert, 12-1 others.

8-4 Berls (sile, 2-7 Grey Smake, 5-2 Seod Riaga. 12-1 Deka Of Lancaster, 20-1 Dissent Mild

Amalteurs: £2,234: 2m 5f 110yd) (16)

1 -1F SHEER JEST 47 (CDBFF,6.5) W Momer 11-12-10. A HBI (3)
2 -Ruin JM ROUGHTLY 17 (DF,6.5) HM Somer 12-17 Mrs. J Read (7)
3 BP-3 AMARI KING 17 (CDJ,6.5) HMs1 C1-22-0. C Ward Thomas (7)
4 5-32 AMOTHER CORM, 43 (DF,6.5) P Waber 12-12-0. R Lender (7)
5 4-22 AMTRIAL COUNTY 12 (5) J Cornwall 11-12-6. J R Comment (7)
6 1P-U BLIC CHEEK 21P (F,6.5) I Mainon 10-12-0. . M Bradley (7)
7 1331 BRIGHT BURNIS 21P (BJ,6.5) C Senting 11-12-4
8 2-14 DREWITTS DANCER 7P (F,5.5) Ks Senting 11-12-4 Missel Surgering (7)
9 0550 R.VYNG ZIAD 28P (DJ,6.5) S Stration 13-12-0 Missel D Olding (7)
10 17:5P PROY THROWER 24 (6.5) N Intendent Dances 9-12-4 M Commen (7)
11 UTSP PROY THROWER 24 (6.5) N Intendent Dances 9-12-4 M Sabding (7)
12 -UPP RECTORY BOY 42P (F,5.5) S (Missel-Dances 9-12-4 A Badding (7)
13 -025 SOCIAL CLEMBER 17 (6.5) S Critician 13-12-0. J L Letwigh (6)
15 5-15 SYLVAN SISOCCO 28P A Taylor 9-12-6. . . . D Drinkmarker (7)
15 SEP GAN AMRY 56P (F,6.5) S Critician 13-12-0. . T McCarthy (5)
15 Sept Jest 5-1 Space Far, 6-1 Percy Turnwer, 7-1 Mr Golightly, 8-1 Another

2-1 Sheer Just 5-1 Space Fair, 6-1 Percy Thrower, 7-1 Mr Golightly, 8-1 And Coral, 12-1 Assen King, Drewits Dancer, 14-1 others.

7.00 COVENTRY PROFILE NOVICES CHASE

7.30 GRIMLEY-INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY

ADVISERS BIRMINGHAM HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,234: 2m 5i 110yd) (16)

BANGOR THUNDERER

2.10 Whattabob. 2.40 Ryde Again, 3.10 Mt Rundle, 3.45 Feels Like Gold. 4.15 Three Saints. 4.45 Teaplanter, 5.15 Bushehr. Carl Evans: 2.40 Ryde Again, 4.45 Teaplanter.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY PATCHES)

2.10 CREWE NOVICES HURDLE (£3,284: 2m 4f) (18 nunners)

-1		WE 10	UNIONE HILL OUT AT (DL'S) D COMPAIN 2-11-9 A . AA (a)
ı	2	1045	GREEN CRUSADER 10 (V,S) Nes V Ward 5-11-9 M Foster
ı	3	1240	ISLAND VISION 17 (D.F) J O'Shea 6-11-9 Mechael Brennan (7)
ı	1 4	-321	MACGEORGE 56 (S) R Les 6-11-9 R Greene
ı	8	2134	MR CONDUCTOR 12 (6) R Amer 5-11-9 W McFadand
Į	6	2130	WHATTABOB 38 (F,S) N Herderson 7-11-9 M A Fitzgerald
١	7	01-3	ALIT EVEN 32 (G) T Forster 6-11-3 S Wymna
ı	1 8	5	GUTTERIDGE 133 S Christian 6-11-8 J Lodder
ı	9	Ď	JASON'S PET 29 C Contay 5-11-3 Mr M Smith
ı	10		JOELRICH S Brookshaw 5-11-3
ı	11		DLIVER-J 886F J Markle 5-11-9
ı	12	ò	PHARDANTE'S WAY 22 (BF) D Nicholson 5-11-3 . A P McCoy
ł	12		ANNISGROVE POLLY O Brennan 7-10-12 M Brennan
ı	14	90	CAROLINES PRINCESS 28 5 Conthuo 5-10-12 Meris Brown (7)
ı	15	85	MRS ROBBNSON 56 J Mackie 5-10-12 £ Husbard (3)
ł	15	0-00	PARTY LADY 126 A J Wilson 7-10-12 L Harvey
ı	17		TRAUR'S STAR J Paries 7-10-12 A Thorston
į	18	D4	EUROLDEK SHADOW 31 D McCam 4-10-10 D McCain
ł			
ı	3 0	mismi	e, 4-1 Assembl The Gate, 5-1 Mr Conductor, Phandaste's Way, 6-1
Į		- W	H Bren Chesien, 17-1 stycs

2.40 OVERTON OPEN HUNTERS CHASE

1	-634	AL HASHMAI 31 (D.F.G.S) N Rideul 12-12-7 N Rideul (7
	20-U	LUMBERJACK 51 (B,D,G,S) C Egenton 12-12-7 A Sansonne (S
3	0.251	MY NOMINEE 14P (BLC.F.G.S.) O Nicholis 8-12-7 A Griffith (7
4	B11F	HYDE AGAIN 25 (D.F.G.S) Miss C Seanders 13-12-7 T Marks (7
- 5	U1P2	SOURFRELISDAUGHTER 12 (C.BF.F.G.S) S Brookshow 9-12-2
-		Ming & Healdren (1
6	0111	AMERICSE 14P (F.G.S) Mrs T Rison 9-12-0 W Ritson (7
7	OIS.	ELEGANT FREND 210F (G,S) T Darlington 8-12-0 M Smith (7
à	UPP	KALI SANA 17 M Hit B-12-0
ğ	5/PP	KING OF SHADOWS 31 (8) Miss C Carden 9-12-0. S Prior (7
10	4417	PARLIAMENT HALL 42P (D.F.G.S) S Shirtey-Bessen 10-12-0
		Men 5 Pormer ()
11	PEP	SHAREEF STAR 27P (S) F Mathews 8-12-0 Johnson (7
19	2262	STMPLY PERFECT 14P (BF.G.S) J Swindells 10-12-0
		Miss S Swindells (7
13	5-53	THE MOSSES 21P (C.D.F.S) C Sample 11-12-0 . D Wood (7
14	-PPF	DOC LODGE 21 (B) S Baker 10-11-9 S Baker (7

6-4 Ryde Again. 9-2 May Nominee, 5-1 Samply Perfect, 7-1 Ambrose, 8-1 Soumeringhopher, 10-1 Al Hashirol, 12-1 Lumberjack, 14-1 others.

3.10 HALLIWELL LANDAU NOVICES CHASE

,_		
1	1-81	JURZ 23 (G,S) R Hooges 8-11-9 W McFarland
		MT RUNDLE 21 (S) S Brookstran 7-11-9 A P McCoy
3	2/P	BENTLEY MANOR 11 (G.S.) K Bridgwater 7-11-3 R Supplie
4	PFF	COPPER CABLE 43 C Smith 9-11-3 M Ranger
5	3524	POUCHER 21 (BF.S) T Forcier 6-11-3 S Wymne
6	-PPO	SARSTA GRAI 11 (F) P Wegnasii 8-10-12 T Elsy
		Mi Rundle, 5-1 Pouches, B-1 Bentley Manor, 16-1 others
	_	

3.45 CHORLTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,679: 3m) (20) 1 0200 FEELS LIKE GOLD 23 (S) M Page 8-11-12

Trough Led. 6.45 Wild Strewberry, 7,15 Nemuro.	3 0411 6470M WHI 10 (2)-53 N BAUGHE 1-11-0 . B Bupple (7) 4 6015 ALBOWNE 21 (0)-53 Mrs J Cocil 7-10-11 T Kent 5 3801 FROZEN SEA 9 (F) 6 Evroph 5-10-5		
HING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS	8 2402 WINDWARD AROM 24F (D.F.G.S) K Burte 10-10-1 G Ryen (5) 9 -12F WILD STRAWBERRY 56F (D.F.G) Mrs. B Sander: 7-10-0		
. 15 SILVER WILKINSON NOVICES HURDLE 3.826: 2m 4l) (8 runners) 1 4125 DARA STRANGER 28 (8F,S) C Brooks 5-11-13. D Setapher 2 3206 DUAS 22 (0,8) J Janiors 7-11-13	10 4312 JOSEPNA 14 (D.F.S.) M McCormact, 5-10-0 Lawrence 11 OPER BROWNISIDE BROS 36 (D.F.S.) D Sherwood 11-10-0 J A McCarth 4-1 Sulvez, 9-2 Ground Nut, 5-1 Albernine, 7-1 Non Vinlage, Joseph B-1 Frage Sea, 10-1 Windowski Arom, 12-1 others		
3 P BUCKBARN 188 Mrs. 1 Primar 5-11-7 Lawrence 4 00- COMMANDER TOM \$23 T Clarment 7-11-7 V Smith 5 /3-3 RHE SIR 28 T Thomson Jones 6-11-7 J R Knownagh 6 HOH WARRKOR C Brooks 5-11-7 E Mornagh 7 OPO KEY TO MOYADE 24 M Wilstrace 6-11-7 P Crowdey (7) 8 508F COMPUTERAD LADY 22 R CAUSE 6-11-2 D Walsh (5) Dark Stranger, 9-4 Djels, 7-2 Fine Sir, 5-1 Hoh Warner, 16-1 Buckman, 20-1 To Moyade, 25-1 others.	7.15 BLACK DOCTOR NOVICES CHASE (£4,788: 2m) (6) 1 4P11 CHURCHTOWN PORT 25 (0.5) P Butler 6-11-10 J A McCarthy 2 5515 NEBARO 23 (8.5,6.5) D Essenth 8-11-10 P Hidde 3 3452 REPORE 12 (70,5.6.5) J Enthire 6-11-7 J Ruiton 4 LEP2 PULL OF TRICKS 12 J Bridger 8-11-2 D Walsh		
45 etoate tan Novices Handless Chare	5 4-04 ICE MAGIC 12 (V) F Yardiny 9-11-2 B Festion 5 FD42 SIZZLING AFFAIR 12 (BF) M Williamson 7-11-2 P Crowley		

6.45 GREEN HIGHLANDER HANDICAP HURDLE

6-4 Nemuro 9-4 Churchioen Part, 4-1 Fierce 7-1 Seziong After 8-1 Fell 0 Tricks, 25-1 ion Magas.

		WILLIE BUNN NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE m 110yd) (9)
1 2	P122 2F21	AMAZE 9 (0.8F.S) Lady Henrie: 7-11-10
4	3650	THE BOUNDER 12 (8,0,8F,F,G) O Sherwood 6-11-7 J A McCartin PHAR FROM FLORRY 49 G Balding 5-10-10 8 Fenton (3)
- 6	1	1 HAVE HM 327 (F,G) N Chance 9-10-10 D Finningen (7) NESCAF 11 (D,F) C Minm 6-10-4 J Resiton EXCLUSION 11 (D,F) J Hetherton 7-10-7 R Manier
	2305	RUNG'S GOLD 18 Mrs L Richards 6-10-0 . D Ballagher MUTLEY 12 N Hande 6-70-0 G F Ryter (5)
		, 9-3 The Bounday, 5-1 Nessad, 7-1 Amesa, 8-1 Mutley, Exclusion, old, 74-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANSPRS: R Hodge, 5 wernes hom 22 names, 22.7%; 0 Shewood, 14 from 65, 21.2%, C Marin, 3 from 17, 17.5%, k Beiley 9 hora 53, 17.0%, Mrs J Polman, 7 from 42, 16.7%; R Alner, 4 from 24, 16.7%.

DOKEYS: MI qualifiers

Blinkered first time ASCOT: 7.50 The Bounder, BANGOR: 3 45 Lord Of The West, Russell Dakis, STRATFORD: 6 30 Weeheby THIRSK: 2.50 Nathal, 3.20 Stephensons Rockel.

- 4	UIFF	THREE PHELOSOPHERS 29 (G,S) T Forster 7-11-4 . S Wynne
- 5	PIOP	LORD OF THE WEST 22 (B,G,S) J J O'Neill 7-11-0 A Roche (3)
6	0132	FOXTROT ROMEO 31 (S) C Brooks 6-10-13 M Berry (7)
7	-432	MARINERS MERROR 35 (C.G.S) N T-Danes 9-10-12 T Jenks
	1571	BONE SETTER 12 (F.G.S) 5 Mallor 6-10-11 . Chris Webb (5)
	5352	ROYAL PIPER 10 (S) A J Wilson 9-10-11 L Harvey
10	112-	FIRST CRACK 343 (F.G.S) F Jordan 11-10-9 J Lodder
11	8005	RIMOUSKI 47 (CD,G) B Cambidge 8-18-8. Mr J Cambidge
12	32/P	RUSSELL DALUS 24 (V,S) S Sherwood 9-10-3 . D Forts (5)
13	0351	PHARARE 28 (CD.F.S) R Woodhouse 6-10-2 A S Smith
14	DP31	VIASSID 123 (V.G.S) W Clay 8-10-2
15	P3-3	JAMESTOWN BOY 28 (B,C,F,G,S) 8 Protest 8-10-2 Gary Lyons
16	P-10	APPLAUDER 63 (D,S) P Beaumoni 7-10-0 R Supple
17	D145	MARINE SOCIETY 7 (S) A Newcombe 8-10-8 A Thornton
7â	/6-0	SKIRCOAT GREEN 12 (D.G.S.) P Bezamont 71-10-0 B Gratten (7)
19	63P0	DERRORG VALLEY 31 (B.F.G.S) A Jones 11-10-0 . W McFarland
20		TM TOBY 31 (D,G) A Foster 9-10-0 K Garde (3)
		er, 6-1 Feels Like Gold. 7-1 Bone Setter, 8-1 First Crack, Manuers
		P. D-1 PSCS LINE 6000, 1-1 DOING SCREET, 9-1 FROM CHARA, MARRIED .

4.15 BROOKES BELL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

3,	107 2	m 4f 110yd) (11)
1	-3F1	THREE SANTS 28 (CD,S) I Forsics 7-12-0 S Wynne
2	1002	SOPHISM 14 (B,BF,F,G,S) M Pape 7-11-13 J Lower
3	223-	WALLS COURT 355 J British 9-11-11 L O'Hara
4	3P-2	INDIAN RUN 21 (6) R Hodges 7-11-6 W McFarland
6		CHOISTY 39 Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-5
6	D-00	BADRAKHANI 51 (G,S) C Nash 10-10-12 T Jenks
7	2233	JASON'S BOY 12 (CD.F.G.S) J Bradley 6-10-11 . D Fort (5)
8		FUNCHEON GALE 31 R Curts 9-10-5 D Morris
9		FLYNON'S GIRL 39 Mrs J Pierran 7-10-1 A Thornion
10	2014	SOLAR WARRIOR 12 J Flitch-Heyes 6-10-0 D Bentley
11	-P50	JUST FOR A LAUGH 45 J Newtham 9-10-0 M Foster
1 Tb	ree Satr	its, 7-2 Fencheon Gale, 4-1 Walls Court, 5-1 Sopheam. 6-7 Chorsty, oy, 10-1 Indian Ron, 20-1 others

4.45 JANE MCALPINE MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (Arnateurs: £2,040: 3m 110yd) (8)

1 2-11 FIDULERS THREE 27P (B.6.S.) I Wymae 13-12-7 I Wymne (7)
2 U303 GREEN TMES 14P (D.6.S) Mrs J Storey 11-12-7
3 F114 HOWARYASUN 24 (V.D.6.S) Mrs G Hardings 8-12-7 D S Jones (7)
4 P3U1 KOLMMFOVILE 20P (D.F.G.) S Shirley-Bearin 9-12-7 Miles S Forster (7) 4 PSULT VOLMMEROYLE 20P (D.F.G.) S Shritey-Delated 9-14-7 Million S Forster (7)
5 2121 TEAPLANTER 12 (CD.F.G.S) Miss C Saunders 13-12-7 B Political (5)
6 44PF QUEEN'S CHAPLAIN 22 (D.F.G.S) Miss M Mintris 12-14
A Sansonne (5) 7 -121 PEAJADE 35P (D.F.G.S) Miss J Wormall 12-12-0 8 21/P SAUSALTO BOY 38 (F,S) R Smith 8-12-0. J Trice-Rolph (5) 4-5 Teaplanter, 3-1 Peapade, 5-1 Fiddlers Three, 10-1 Howanyasun, 12-1 Kilomintoyle, 20-1 Sausalito Boy, 40-1 others

5.15 EMPAL HANDICAP HURDLE



STRATEORD THUNDERER

5.30 Harding, 6.00 Conti D'Estruval, 6.30 Children's Choice, 7.00 Bells Life, 7.30 Sheer Jest, 8.00 Anlace. Carl Evans: 7.30 Blue Cheek.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

5.30 JENKINSONS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,794: 2m 6i 110yd) (17 runners) 1 1346 HARDING 17 (S) S Mellor 5-11-4

- 2	-260	AN THERE YOU ARE 52 K BOOK 7-10-12 TJ MODIN	
3		CROSS THE RUBICON C Brooks 5-10-12 T J MATTER CROSS THE RUBICON C Brooks 5-10-12 S MA	
- 4	0	DERPRING JACK 35 A Carroll 5-10-12 J F	
5	2006	GLAMANGLITZ 47 P Dation 5-18-12	
- 6	044	MASTER HOPEFULL 10 6 Bateling 7-10-12 R Gr	
- 7	PU	MR SOX 31 Miss L Shally 5-10-12 M Bre	
В	0-00	MUNIMY'S MOLE 24 Greene Roe 5-10-12 Shape Graham	
ğ	-040	MITRE 52 G James 8-10-12 Philip Hugher	
10	OP53	NO MORALS 25 J Upson 5-10-12	
11	3/0	POLLYKENDU 70 R Brotherton 8-10-12	
12	2343	SIMPLE SIMON 37 D National 6-10-12 @ Hoga	
13	102	TIPPING THE LINE 64 (BF,G) M Pipe 5-10-12 _ O BUSTON	
14	0304	AUNTIE ALUCE 11 J Fitzgerald 6-10-7 F Leats	
15		KINTINO M Without 6-10-7	
16	P	BLUE AND ROYAL 54 Mass J Dovide 4-10-5 S Co	
17	0	BILUE AND ROYAL 54 Miss J Doyle 4-10-5	
.2 0		non. 4-1 Harring, 5-1 Tipping The Line, 6-1 Cross The Histocon	
untic Alice, 8-1 Master Hopelell, 10-1 others.			
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6.00 LAURENT-PERRIER HANDICAP CHASE (£4,861: 2m 4f) (9)

9-4 C	eti D'E Imala	siruval, 4-1 fb 10-1 Beech R	estic Air, 9-2 cod, 14-1 nd	Wise Approx	ich, 5-1 Pasti	io, 7-1 Bara
ğ	20-1	ARMALA 12	(D.F.E.S) J	Gillard 11-1	0-0	L Aspell (
8	1412	AUSTIC AIR	12 O.H.G.	S) J Planes	0-8	W Date
Ť	1150	MIGNORA.	M (BDFR)	Hotobs 7-1	D-R	S Tormey C
6	5111	CONTI OTES	TRUMAL 10	m Fan a Re	Idea 6.10.11	I P Mars
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- 7	PURE	WEST APPR	DACH 10 /C	DEGSIKE	leffey 9-11-17	S Meth
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	145	REFICH ROA	ពិសាសា ស	9.53 G Balds	14-11-12	_ I Fro

6.30 AHP TRAILERS WOMBOURNE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,598: 2m 110yd) (17) 1 6310 WESHERY 17 (B.D.F) M Barraclough 7-12-6 ... G Tourney (3) 2 1 EBEN M, IMBGES 25 (5) D McCasa 5-11-13 ... D MrcCala 3 P223 STATELY HOME 10 (9) P Boness 5-11-8 ... O Burrows (7) 4 S212 CYMRIS THE STEAT 12 (D.F) K Bastry 4-11-8 ... T J Memphy (3) 5 00-P DLWESH 78F (87) J White 5-11-6 ... R General 6 160 OUR ARBERT 33 (D.S.) J Françoid 4-11-5 ... F Lesdy (3) 7 2461 TERMYESTERNS 5 (D.G.) D Marts B-11-4 (Ben) ... A P McCoy 8 -590 DOMINGROET BENGHT 102 C Broaks 5-10-10 ... J Fresh 9 DDS1 POLY AMARISMAN 12 (D.G.) M Resis 4-10-9 ... D Styrme

8.00 RICHARDSON DEVELOPMENTS OLDBURY MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,058: 2m 110yd) (9) 1 0511 SHARKASHKA 32 (D.F.G) T Eacherby 6-11-11 ___ A P McCoy 2 3823 WREW WARRLER 39 (D.S) May P Robbeson 6-10-10 MR J Barrett (7) 3 10. SPRINGSPELD DANCER 343 (S) P Hobbs 5-10-3 G Tombey (3) 4 003P HANDY LASS 12 (F.S.S) J South 7-10-3 ___ T J Murphy (3) 5 820 ANLACE 19 (D.F.G) S Melro 7-10-0 ___ N Marm 6-4-16 SAN WYN 10 (D.F) R Backs 6-10-0 ___ N SUPPLY 10-0 ___ N SUPP 6-4 Sharkeshka, 9-2 Daily Sport Get, 11-2 Ween Wentler, 7-1 Springfield Dences, 8-1 Anisco, 10-1 Legalies Start Wyn, 16-1 others

Saturday portrait: Jimmy White, by Simon Barnes

Sublime talent who has incurred substantial out-of-pocket expenses

laim to fame: I once belonged to the same snooker club as Jimmy White. No, I did not give him five blacks start and take him on for a monkey a frame. I nodded to him when I saw him, which was most days. I was a south London journo; he was a south London story. "Allo, Jimmy."

*Allo, mate.

Always terrifically amiable; always something completely remote about him. Even then, in a way, he seemed quite untouchable. And he was but 14. I would go in to play a quick frame and miss a few reds, always given, thank the Lord, a table right at the back of the room. It was always just after work, down at the Pot Black club a few minutes walk from Clapharn Junction. White would be there with a group round table one, where he had been all day. He should have been at the Ernest Bevin comprehensive, but there he was, learning things that school could not teach him.

How to stay cool in a money match; how to make machine gun breaks that snap an opponent's nerve like a stick of barley sugar; how to pocket balls with a crash that might dent the brass rail behind the pocket; how to trickle cy. Surrounded by people, for even then he had his hangers-on, but also, always quite alone.

Black hair and a face of deathly pallor, nothing has changed much there. He had a transplant for the hair when it got thin, but there is nothing you can do about the pallor. I doubt if he has ever seen the sun. A creature of the dark. with a slightly wolfish grin.

And always that sense of not quite being there, lost in a mental universe of colliding spheres. Perhaps it was the sheer beauty of his game that enraptured him. Many people still insist that he is the finest snooker player that ever

Ball for ball, break for break, frame for frame, they are probably right. But not championship for world championship twice.

White - how many people would include the word alas here? has not won it once. Between 1990 and 1994 he lost the final of the world championship every year. Old snooker hands still talk about a black he missed against Stephen Hendry, a miss that allowed Hendry the implacable to

"I don't want to be disrespectful to my fellow players," White once said, "but it is a joke how I keep losing to so many mugs." I don't want to be disrespectful to Jimmy White - no one does - but winning is not really his greatest talent. Snooker is. He wins frames, not games; he wins games, not championships. He has won only nine world-ranking events in his

'Many people still insist that he is the finest snooker player that ever drew breath'

career — this compared with 28 by Steve Davis, 24 by Hendry.

The last time he won one was in 1992, when he won the United Kingdom championship. White is living out the story of a sharp decline from a peak of under-achievement. He is now trembling on the very edge of the top 16 in the world. Membership of that charmed circle means that you are seeded in competition: you do not meet Hendry in the first round.

White needs to win at the world championship, which begins to-day at the Crucible in Sheffield. No, not win the tournament, just win his first round match; and that looks problem enough. It takes place on Wednesday and Thursday. He plays a chap called Euan Henderson. Only if he wins can White be sure of staying in the elite

It is a personal battle of some magnitude. And naturally. Hen-

derson has beaten him before. Most people have, though White has never been known to offer an excuse. "My opponent played great." That has always been his

A vignette of the recent snooker life of Jimmy White: In February this year, White is playing an exhibition with John Virgo in Leicester. Exhibitions have rather gone out of fashion, but there is still endless demand for White. And in seven frames, he knocked off two 147 breaks. Willie Thorne, who has seen a fair amount of snooker in his time, came out wagging his cue ball of a head and

muttering "fantastic, fantastic."
But it does not seem to happen
in matches these days. White is a bit like the bowler who is unplayable in the nets but, as soon as he hoop down a hill. It is not precisely the yips, just a suicidal tendency every now and then to miss a ball that even Barnes could pot. And that is a truly fatal deficiency.

But even in disaster, he is loved Everyone loves White. He has been called snooker's Barry Manilow, because of the love he inspires among housewives. But Jack-the-lads love him just as well. The temptation to pair him with Higgins is overwhelming, and must be resisted at all costs. Higgins is a disaster area in many ways, but he has those two world championships. And it is hard in smooker to find a good word for anything about Higgins except his mostly extinguished talent. White is as well loved as ever.

Booze is not a straightforward subject with either man. But where Higgins has always been a career drinker, White has been a dilettante, tending to go on the odd binge when he cannot play bigtime snooker. It has still caused him problem enough. He got caught driving four times over the limit, and did 120 hours of community service as a result. It has made for a somewhat turbulent marriage with Maureen, a girl he met (where else?) in a fish and chip shop in Tooting during his Pot Black snocker club days.

He has four daughters, to whom



is devoted; the youngest is called Breeze. He has the same concentration in money matters as he does in crucial frames of snooker - not quite enough. He has won more than £3 million in prize-money, but never seems quite as well-off as he should be. though he does have a stockbroker-style house in Surrey.

Last year he had a testicle that particularly alarming place.

EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW

terror and brave jokes. As ever, he handled things with a certain

White is always seen as a bad lad without an ounce of harm in plays borders on the religious. He calls his own fouls - a minute feathering of the cue ball, an inadvertent nudge with the waistcoat. Failure to do so would be a kind of blasphemy to him.

the morning after he had spent the evening with Higgins. Unable to face tea, he blindly requested a glass of water and winced when he drank from it. My whole being responded in sympathy. But, even in extremis, he was courteous,

pleasant, charming. I always remember the best snooker I ever saw in my life. [went to the Crucible for the second day of the final in 1984. I almost

did not bother. White began it 12-4 down to Davis. But round about midnight on that second day, the match was at last over and Davis all but speechless with admiration. He had been outplayed. "Jimmy played his brains out," Davis said at last. For Davis could not play like that to save his life, and he knew it and he acknowledged it. Davis won, of course, 18-16. Yes, White lost again. But gloriously;

Title run means the world to Hendry

Stephen Hendry (1)

RECENT form aside, there is an overwhelming body of evidence which supports the theory that, on May 6, Stephen Hendry will equal the modern record of six Embassy world snooker championship titles jointly held by Ray Reardon and Steve Davis.

Today, Hendry begins his attempt to lift the game's most coveted trophy for the fifth year in succession. If, as expected, he comfortably negotiates the first round by defeating Jason Ferguson, of Mansfield, Hendry will extend his unbeaten run of matches at the Crucible, Sheffield, to 21 matches.

It is an uninterrupted spell of dominance that has eclipsed the efforts of Davis, who, by winning the championship in 1987, 1988 and 1989 and reaching the semi-finals in 1990, set the former record with 18 consecutive victories.

Even though Hendry turned professional seven years after Davis, his great rival, he is top of many statistical career lists. He has compiled 338 century breaks in competition, 92 more than Davis, and, with the £200,000 first prize from the championship this year, the Scot would carry his total tournament earnings to £4.824,175.

Not for the first time, Hendry arrives at the Crucible saddled with a string of surprising defeats in the second half of the season. Crucially, though, these have been the result of an inspired performance from his opponents and/or a lack of concentration and motivation on his part. During his many exhaus-

tive practice sessions at Spencers. Stirling. Hendry has continued to strike the ball with great authority and regards early elimination from the International Open. European Open. Irish Masters and British Open as irritating rather than worrying.

Those failures disguise the fact that the 1995-96 campaign has been another memorable one for Hendry, during which three-quarters of his personal grand slam has already been achieved. In September, Hendry beat Peter Ebdon 9-5 to win the Regal Scottish Masters on home soil; two months later, Ebdon was again his victim, this time by 10-3, in the final of the United Kingdom championship: and.

in February. Hendry pre-vailed in the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley for the sixth time in eight years by defeating Ronnie O'Sull-

Before the season began, I made it clear that those three events and, of course, the world championship were my main targets, and so far I've hit three of them. Hendry said. "When you've achieved so much, it's difficult to get the necessary incentive week after week, but I have proved again this season that, when I'm tuned in. I tend to play at my

"If you can't get the adrenalin flowing at the Crucible it's time to quit. I can't say that about every tournament but I honestly look forward to the championship, it's special to me. even now."

Last weekend, Hendry beat Ebdon and Davis 5-3 to reach Matchroom League. He is relatively fresh and deter-



Hendry: dominance

mined to repel any challenge, not only for the title, but for his long-held status as world

Having won the German Open and International Open and figured in the finals of the Grand Prix and British Open. John Higgins finds himself breathing down Hendry's neck. The 975 ranking-points deficit faced by Higgins means that he only has to win one more match than Hendry at Sheffield to replace him in

An all-Scottish final between the two is a distinct possibility even though Higgins, on his only previous appearance at the Crucible, was beaten 10-3 by Alan McManus in the first round of

the event last year.
Higgins, 20, who by capturing the title would also supersede Hendry as the youngest winner in the 69-year history of the championship, has the level-headed nature required to meet the particular de-mands of the Crucible — the need to perform at or near optimum efficiency for 17 days under ever-increasing

That does not apply to O'Sullivan, another 20-yearold who, though more mature than Higgins in many re-spects off the table, refuses to abandon the cavalier tenden-cies that have undermined the chances of many naturally talented players at Sheffield. O'Sullivan can be outstanding for a session or two but, at some point, encounters a bad patch in which he struggles to

rise above mediocrity. Ebdon. McManus, Ken Doherty and John Parrott, the 1991 world and United Kingdom champion who has won the Thailand Classic and European Open this season, all have the credentials to press Hendry, but Davis and limmy White are unlikely to

Even though his safety re-mains in a league of its own, Davis has not added to his 70 career titles since the Regal Welsh Open of January 1995 and has reached the quarterfinals of only one of the nine ranking tournaments contested this season.

White, the championship's perennial nearly-man, having tasted defeat in six finals, has slumped to such an extent that he must beat Euan Henderson, of Glenrothes, in the opening round merely to ensure his continued occupancy of a place in the top 16 next season. The repeated insis-tence from White that, in practice and on the exhibition circuit, he is playing as well as ever points to growing anxiety and diminishing confidence as the causes of his slide.

He has failed to win an event of any description since the 1993 Matchroom League and one has to go back to the 1992 United Kingdom championship to unearth his last success in a ranking event. It is a barren spell that puts Hendry's minor troubles over the past couple of months into

QUARTER FINALS David Roe (18) Ken Deherty (9) Nick Terry Drew Henry Jimmy Michie Higel Bond (12) **Anthony Hamilton** Dave Harold (13) Rod Lawer Honnie O'Sulivan (3 Alain Robidoux Tony Drago (14) Steve James John Higgins (11) Muntin Clark Nun Makimus (6 Mick Price Jimmy White (7) Euch Hendingon Peter Ebdon (10) Dene O'Karas Terry Griffiths (15) Steve Davis (2) Wilde Thome

Bond targeted by Musketeer

Prize money this year totals £1.2million. Champion £200,000, Runner-up £120,000, Losing semi-finalists £60,000, Losing quarter-finalists £30,000. Second round losers £1,8,000, First round losers £9,000. Highest breek £17,000.

GIANT-KILLERS at the Crucible have been in short supply in recent years, but Anthony Hamilton has the potential to fill that role by beating Nigel Bond, the win-ner of the British Open two weeks ago, in their first-round match, which starts on Monday (Phil Yates writes).

Hamilton, a 24-year-old from Nottingham, completed a notable double last summer by winning the Australian Open and Australian Masters but has yet to display such form under the scrutiny of the television cameras and against the leading exponents In appearance, Hamilton is

unconventional. He arrived at the Thailand Classic with his eyebrow pierced, his taste in fashion leans towards grunge and he briefly earned the nickname D'Artagnan when sporting a beard that gave him the look of a Musketeer. He is, however, completely

British Open winner faces threat from

potential giant-killer orthodox when it comes to snooker. A sound technique combined with shrewd tacti-

cal awareness have enabled

him to climb the world-ranking ladder steadily since he joined the professional ranks in 1991. His great strength, though, is break-building.

Bond, who beat John Hig-

gins 9-8 on the black in the final of the British Open. could be vulnerable to selfimposed pressure. Having triumphed in Plymouth and reached the final at the Crucible 12 months ago, he will have high expectations. In addition, overcoming Hamilton would go a long way to securing his place in the England team for the World Cup, alongside John Parrott and Peter Ebdon.

Bond, who readily admits he is a slow starter, has also practised with Hamilton on numerous occasions. Consequently, he knows his opponent's capabilities and will therefore not possess the same edge of perceived superiority displayed by the majority of

Ebdon puts heart into uncovering winning formula

Phil Yates discovers how a children's film inspired the season's most consistent player

IF SELF-BELIEF, singleminded commitment and rare ability to relish pressure guaranteed success, Peter Ebdon, one of the realistic challengers to Stephen Hendry's Embassy world championship domination, would have a bulging trophy cabinet.
As it stands, this disciplined,

ambitious son of a prison officer is finding that a prodigious practice schedule, clean living and an utterly professional approach have proved insufficient to convert consistency into silverware. Ebdon has climbed from

tenth to fourth in the provisional world rankings this season. He has appeared in four finals, three semi-finals and, regardless of his performance at the Crucible, in Sheffield, will represent Eng-land at the World Cup in Yet, with all that, Ebdon

remains frustrated. He needs a spark and is desperately hoping the inspiration he always draws from merely walking into the Crucible will provide that catalyst.

Despite being involved at the business end of virtually every tournament he has contested during the 1995-96 campaign. Ebdon's appetite for titles has stayed largely unassuaged, his only triumph coming at the relatively low-key Rothman's Malta grand prix

in November. Even so, a succession of near misses - he lost to Hendry in the final of the Regal Scottish Masters and United Kingdon champion-ship and to John Parrott in the European Open - have not croded Ebdon's resolve. At 25, he is a long way removed from the pony-tailed rookie who astoundingly heat Steve Davis 10-4 in the first round of the 1992 world championship.

He is devoted to his wife, Deborah, and dotes on his daughter, Clarissa. Indeed, it was while watching Clarissa's favourite video. The Lion King, that Ebdon put into perspective his own role in snooker's circle of life. "One of

the characters tells his son, you are more than you have become', and that really struck a chord with me," Ebdon said. "There's no doubt in my mind that that statement applies to me. I know it's only a cartoon, but I think the sentiment fits

my circumstances perfectly. "I put so much into my matches it hurt me more to lose than other players. I convert emotional energy into effort on the table and sometimes you can't help thinking if all the heartache of defeat is really worth it. Those thoughts

don't last long, though."
Ebdon, who faces Dene O'Kane in the first round, has, along with Hendry, Parrott and John Higgins, the neces-



Ebdon: remains frustrated

sary mental steel to survive the 17-day marathon of the mind which is the world championship. It remains to be seen whether the burden of so : many recent disappointments will weigh Ebdon down or fuel his already raging competitive

Like all of his fellow compet itors. Ebdon must realise the importance of playing to his strengths. He is undoubtedly at his best when adopting an attacking philosophy but, of late, he has proceeded at a progressively slower pace. Elimination of mistake inducing haste is one thing, compromising your natural style for the sake of conservatism is

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ACKELS

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Montgomerie well positioned for first American win

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN HILTON HEAD ISLAND

THE tournament the week after a Major championship he would predict it would come, it is the Harbour Town inevitably throws up players who have run into form a few days later than they would have wished. For example, what would Vijay Singh have given for the 63 he had in a pro-am last Wednesday to replace the 82 with which he finished in the Masters last Sunday?

Colin Montgomerie is another case in point. Having started the MCI Classic here with a comfortable 69, he added a 66 to it yesterday, playing as well as he knows he can. His form now is in marked contrast to the 75s he had in his third and fourth rounds at Augusta.

Montgomerie's dip in form

in the first Major champion-ship of the year is all the more puzzling because he had been playing so well before the Masters and is clearly playing just as well now. He came second in the The Players' Championship at Jacksonville last month and now, at seven under par, is just one stroke behind Jeff Sluman and Tom Watson, the leaders here after

Montgomerie's elusive first victory in the United States cannot be long delayed and if

NICK FALDO might have three green Masters jackets —

hat David Carter had two of them by the time he was II.

The only difference is that

Carter, who set a new course

record in the second round of

the Cannes Open here yester-

day, subsequently had his

golfing mementoes purloined,

National.

Service Control of the service of th

THE PROPERTY FAIR

The second secon

whereas Faldo's collection is

Carter, a pencil-slim and

modest 23-year-old, told his

tale of sartorial trophies

gained and lost after a 62 at

Royal Mougins that beat the

previous course record by two

shots. His total of 132, ten

under par, gave him a one-

stroke lead over Padraig Har-

rington with Raymond Rus-

sell a further shot behind and

Ignaçio Garrido fourth on

South African-born to Brit-

ish parents, Carter was but a

golfing babe when he played

in a mini-Masters event at

Kyalami, on the outskirts of

Johannesburg, his home

town, and was presented with

a jacket by none other than

Bobby Locke. The next year he

went back and won another,

only to lose both when his

Far from discouraging him

from ever wanting to watch

people don green jackets

again, Carter said that he was

glued to the television last

weekend. Greg Norman's dis-

arents' house was burgled.

Material gains no

big deal to Carter

FROM MEL WEBB IN CANNES

integration was compulsory

viewing, he said. "There were

great lessons to be learnt there," he said. "It showed

what pressure can do to even

collapse or anything like it as

Carter went about his busi-

ness, producing the best round of his life. He had five birdies

going out and another five

returning to the clubhouse.

He went into a bunker at the

last, but had he managed to

hole his sand shot for an eagle

he would have been in with 60,

a feat performed only seven

times in the history of the PGA

remarkable performance.

There was no question of

the greatest players."

with only one bogey.

European Tour.

a nice surprise."

perfection.

Links, "This course is as right for me as any," Montgomerie said. Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus designed it several decades ago to discover the game's best shot-makers, men who are straight from the tee and can move the ball from right to left, and left to right as

Dye designed a few bunkers with railway sleepers - what they call railroad ries over here - supporting the face and he and Nicklaus, intent upon devilry, gave the holes some of the smallest greens ever seen on a championship course.

siens of fatieue. Spurred on by the support of his father, who has walked every step of the two rounds so ar, Montgomerie seems to have reacquainted himself with the putter that completely lost its effectiveness on the hard and fast greens of the Augusta National club. "I have only dropped two

If they wanted to identify the

game's true champions, they

succeeded. Previous winners

include Nick Faldo, Hale Irwin, Watson, Johnny Miller. Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer,

Greg Norman and Payne

Stewart. If you can tell a man

by the books he reads, then

you could surely tell a champ-ionship by its list of winners.

good one for Montgomerie to

win, as he clearly could. He has already picked up [22],000 since he arrived on

these shores nearly a month

ago and, though he is compet-

ing in his fourth successive

event, he shows no particular

This event, then, would be a

shots in two days so that is good," Montgomerie, who re-turns home on Monday, said. i am playing well and I'm looking forward to the weekend. The difference between this week and last has been my putting. Last week I couldn't hole them, this week I

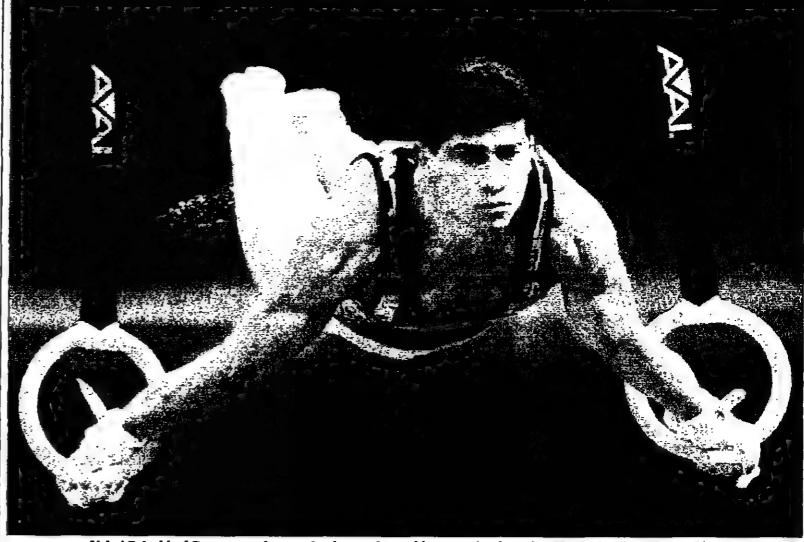
Wearing a shirt so red it might have been Welsh. Montgomerie made his way around the par-71 course with hardly a hint of difficulty. There was less wind than the previous day and less sun, too. He was one of the first players to start and so the greens had not become spiked up. This undoubtedly contributed to his better putting.

Montgomerie holed from 20 feet on the 1st, chipped close on the 2nd, reached the green of the long 5th in two and hit a five-iron from 194 yards to within three feet at the 8th. There had been no hint of a mistake so far and when one came, he got it over and done with quickly. On the 10th, his second shot clipped a branch of a tree and fell back and he

dropped a stroke. He quickly got back to playing near faultiess golf, hitting a wedge to within eight feet and holing the putt on the 13th and then cleverly sinking a downhill 15-footer on the 17th

The fact that he did not, then As the ball began rolling missed a curly ten-foot putt, did little to take the gloss off a slowly towards the hole, several spectators shouted: "It's Did he expect to shoot 62. in, it's in." Eventually, it somebody asked. You don't dropped, for his south birdle of expect to shoot 62." he said. the day. Montgomerie was desperately close with a "And if you do, then you definitely won't. No. it came as 20-foot putt on the last,

These days Carter plays out of Handley Wood Driving EARLY SEDOND-ROUND LEADERS (LS tritess stated): 134: J Shman 87, 67: 7 Watson 87, 67: 435: C Mortgomerie (Scot) 69, 68 J Maggert 69, 66: L Hoberts 68, 68 138: B Nerrum 73, 63. O Love III 68, 68: R Meditate 68, 69, C Beck 68, 67: 137: T Tolios 69, 68: B Tway 67, 70: D Edwards 68, 69; V Singh (Fig.) 70: 67: Partinger 71, 65: 138: C Perruer 68, 71: J D Salver 69, 69, 138: B Lohr 68, 71: J D Salver 69, 69. N Price (Zm) 72, 67: J Hans 72, 67: R Cochron 71, 68: 140: J Wilson 72, 68: S Sincker 78, 68: L Price (Zm) 72, 68: J N Price (Zm) 73: R Salver 69, 69: N Price (Zm) 74: 68; T N Coerson 72, 68: L Price (Zm) 74: 68: N Toler 75: 68: L Price (Zm) 75: 68: N R Salver 69, 71: M Coerson 72, 69: L Price (Zm) 74: 68: R Salver 75: 68: L Price (Zm) 74: 68: R Salver 75: 68: M Brooks 73, 68: A Bean 73, 69 FARILY SECOND-ROUND LEADERS ILE Range, near Chesterfield, which is owned by Bryan, his father, who taught his son the game and who now plays on the PGA European Seniors Tour. Carter Sr it was who helped to iron out a glitch that appeared in his son's swing during the winter. He seems to have done his job to



Valeri Belenki, of Germany, swings on the rings at the world gymnastics championships in San Juan, Puerto Rico

Deakin banned after video verdict

BY CHRISTOPHEN IRVINE

THE Rugby Football League (RFL) disciplinary committee yesterday meted out one of its stiffest penalties in banning Leigh Deakin, the Hull wing, for eight games and fining him £250 for a punch that broke the jaw of the Keighley Cougars full back, Andre Stoop. The injury will take two months to heal.

Keighley asked the RFL to view a video of the incident from the first division match on Easter Monday — a method of disciplinary control that is catching out increasing numbers of offenders. George Mann, the Leeds forward, was also caught on camera. He was initially placed on report for a high tackle by the referee at Oldham, then suspended for three matches by the committee yesterday.

yesterday, Gary Charlton, the Carlisie loose forward, was suspended for three games for illegal use of the elbow and Tim Street, the Leigh prop forward, received a two-match ban for a high tackle. David Bradbury, the Olda year ago.
"I deeply regret the incident and it was totally out of

character," Bradbury said. "I wrote to Lee apologising, and I suppose there will be some extra tension in the match, but my main concern will be helping Oldham to win."

Bradbury returns to the

ham Bears forward, faces

Castleford Tigers tonight for

the first time since receiving a

three-month ban for a punch

that broke the jaw of Lee

Harland, the Castleford prop,

second row in place of Gary Lord, Joe Faimalo switches to prop and Scott Ranson is back on the wing after four months on the sidelines, in place of Afi Leuila, who broke his leg in the defeat of Leeds. The Tigers, unbeaten in eight visits by the Bears, are hoping Lee Crooks will be back after a two-match absence for a

live on Sky. At Leeds, the absence of Mann, combined with injuries to two front-row players, Mick

Wembley beckons for Arnold

Shaw and Neil Harmon, has caused Dean Bell, the coach, to delay his team announcement for the visit tomorrow of third-placed Sheffield Eagles. Mike Forshaw, however, is fit to resume at loose forward. Leeds's search for their first

win is becoming increasingly

desperate. "We need to stop the rot and quickly," Bell said. match that will be televised "We have had chances to win games and we probably should have won three of our four so far. We have just got to umphed at Headingley for the first time in seven visits. Their buoyancy is such that they are favourites to repeat the trick. The Eagles' main worry is Mark Aston. Their goal-kicking scrum half has not trained since injuring an ankle in the defeat of London Broncos last week, but Waisale Sovatabua, Paul Dixon, Darren Turner and Richard Price are all

Tas Baitieri, the Paris Saint-Germain manager, is under no illusions that the trip to Warrington tomorrow is his side's loughest assignment to date. Paris are undefeated at home, but lost their only previous away game, to London. Kava Utoikamanu, the former professional boxer from Tonga, comes in at prop for Jason Sands, who is committed to the French Cup semi-

available again.

Warrington, with three wins out of four, start with Chris Rudd at centre and drop Mateaki Mafi down to the substitutes' bench, the only change from the side that defeated Halifax eight days

WHEN Joey Hayes pulled up Helens' charge into the Challenge Cup final and their unbeaten Super League run, that, when I'm on the outside with a recurrence of hamof someone, there's no one who could catch me," he said.

string problems on Thursday. the dispute between him and Danny Arnold for the St Helens right wing place at Wembley next Saturday was cruelly, but instantly, resolved (Christopher Irvine writes).

For Hayes, scorer of 18 tries last season, it was a fourth breakdown in four months. Arnold, 19, was a stop-gap, moved from full back, yet the teenager has spearheaded St

with a remarkable 14 tries in eight matches. Shaun McRae, the St Hel-

for the experience of Alan Hunte on the right flank, but with Arnold's present insatiable appetite, it is unthinkable. Workington, Wigan, Leeds and Bradford were all unable to cope with the long-striding wing. "I feel at the moment

worry about the final until next week, but it's a bit like trying to tell a kid that Christmas won't be coming."

For the match tomorrow at

Halifax, who are without a

win, McRae's overriding pri-

ers to forget about Wembley.

"All of a sudden, you can be

on the back foot. I'm trying to

drive it home to them not to

the news that both Pessoa and Whitaker are changing to Simon will not be easy to

Whitaker well placed to thwart Simon's ambition

PROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN CENEVA

FEW favourites can have fulfilled expectations as emphatically as Hugo Simon here on Thursday night in the first leg of the Volvo World Cup. Riding ET, his Hanoverian gelding, the 53-year-old Austrian showjumper - who has been seeking a second World Cup win since taking the inaugural event in 1979 — beat the Brazilian, Rodrigo Pessoa, 23, on Special Envoy. by

Third place was filled by

John Whitaker, of Britain, who has a third World Cup well within his sights after a fine performance on Grannusch. The old horse, brought here only for this first leg, could not have played his part better. The 17-year-old jumped each of the 13 fences faultlessly. "He was perfect," a delight-

ed Whitaker said. Luck, though, eluded Nick Skelton, of Britain, who is seeking a second successive win on Dollar Girl. The 16year-old mare jumped beautifully round Paul Weier's demanding course but just

national under-84 championathips: First round (GB unless stated)* A Roberts-Miler and J Wilcooks bit D Chamberlain and A Snelgrove 8-4, 6-0; M Ward and C Snelhoubt C Acheson-Gray and H Cox 6-2, 6-0 Cuarter-finals: R Gunn and D Jones bit Florens-Hass und Wilcooks 6-2, 6-1 and B Rionaldono bit S and J Tromisson 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. B Date (Aus.) and M Cophlon bit Ward and Swellow 6-5, 6-2; A Lyons and S Virgona (Aus.) bit A Blosse and J Dawes 8-0, 8-1 Semi-finals (Juno and Lyons bit 4-and B Ronaldson 8-1, 6-1; Virgona and Lyons bit 4-and B Ronaldson 8-1, 6-1; Virgona and Lyons bit

Bornation 6-1, 6-1; Virgina and Lyons to Date and Cognier 6-4, 6-2; IFOCADERO NATIONAL LEAGUE: He lield at Harbour Clab 2-1 (Haffeld names inst) P. Janes talk Luddens 2-1, Mildowald lost to J. Maile 2-0; A. Phillips bt D. Deuchar

touched the first part of Fence lla, picking up a four-second penalty which dropped them to twelfth place.

Only one rider. Michael Matz, of the United States, has won the World Cup after finishing outside the top ten in the first leg, but that statistic has merely added fuel to Skelton's desire to succeed.

The Olympic champion, Ludger Beerbaum, Germany, riding Gaylord, found himself commiserating with Skelton. Beerbaum, the winner in 1993, is joint sixteenth after four faults at the penultimate fence and must now rely on mistakes by the leaders to move up.

dislodge, although his chances this week were threatened when an infected elbow prevented him from riding for ten days and his top horse. Apricot, on whom he was fourth in 1994, suffered a severe bout of colic and had to be withdrawn.

But ET, the horse he will now ride throughout the competition, has limitless scope and, at nine, has youth on his side. Simon was unmoved by

fresh horses for the two remaining legs — Tom Tom and Welham respectively. As he was quick to point out, every winner of the competition so far has ridden only one horse in the final.

☐ Mark Todd, of New Zealand, and Britain's Kristina Gifford, Charlotte Bathe and William Fox-Pitt are among the riders having a last outing before Badminton (May 2-5) at the South of England Pedigree Chum Horse Trials at Ardingly this weekend.

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (AFL): Brisbane 18 7 (125) bi North Melbourne 14 11 (96)

BASKETBALL. BUDWEISER CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-offic Second leg: Birmingham 96 Derby 88 Birmingham win 2-0; London Towers 94 Thames Valley 81 (London win 2-0) Thames Velley 81 (London van 2-0)
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NEA): Milwaulear-111 Charlotte 103, Cleveland 92 New
York 77; Orlando 119 Atlanta 104; Chicago
110- Debott 79: Dallas 132 Denver 98;
Hougton 115 Los Angeles Cappers 107;
San-Antono 103 Los Angeles Laivers 100:
Utah 94 Vancouver 79.

HADMINTON

HERNING, Dermark: European cham-pionships: Men: Singles: Quarter-finals: P.E. Hoyer-Larsen (Den) tx J. Oisson (Swe) 15-11, 15-10: J. Oisson (Swe) br D. Hall Engig 9-16, 15-5, 15-12: J. van Chik (Holl) tx D. Ertesson (Swe) 15-5, 15-7, P. Resmussen (Den) bt P. Knowles (Eng) 15-7, 15-13. Sens-Smal: Hoyer bt Oisson 15-7, 15-3. Women: C. Martin (Den) bt S. Muller (Ger) 17-0, 11-0; C. Magnusson (Swe) bt M. Sorensen (Den) 12-10, 3-11, 11-5, M. Yakushevs (Russ) bt M. Pedersen (Den)

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FOOTBALL Reports and scores from the Endsleigh Insurance League Call 0839 555 512

Calls cost 39p per min cheap rate. 49p per min at all other times

11-6, 11-5: A Sondergaard (Den) of K Krasowska (Pol) 9-11, 11-9 11-4 Semi-final Yakusheva of Sondergaard 11-6, 11-9 Doublers: Sami-finals: M Thomsen and L Stuer-Lauridsen (Den) bi J Wright and J Bradbury (Eng) 15-12, 10-15, 15-1; R Olsen and H Kinegbard (Den) bi K Schmidt and K Ubben (Ger) 15-6, 15-5 Mised doubles: Semi-finals: S Archer and J Bradbury (Eng) bi R Michals and E van den Heuval (Hol) 15-11 (5-12; M Soggard and R Olsen (Den) bi M Keck and K Stachmann (Ger) 15-9, 15-10.

CRICKET

County match Lancashire v Yorkshire
OLD TRAFFORD (second day of three)
Yorkshire, with seven first-minings wickets in
hand, are 148 runs behind Lancashire

hand, are 148 runs behind Lancassania
S P Titchard c Byes b When!
A Atherton c Blaskey b When!
A A Atherton c Blaskey b When!
N J Speat c Blaskey b Mornis
G D Lloyd c Gough b Hamilton
A Finition! c Mornis b Gough
W K Hogg c Blaskey b White
I D Austin b When!
S Hworthy c When! b Vaugham
G Yates c White b When!
R J Green st Blaskey b Fisher
G Keedy not out
Extras (b 1, b 7, nb 4)

tR J Blakey, A C Moms, D Gough, G M Herniton, I D Fisher and A G Wheel

BOWLING: Eworithy 11-1-37-0; Austin 10-9-5-1; Green 8-2-17-2, Keedy 6-5-4-0; Vales Umpires: G I Burgess and R Paimer. No play yesterday THE PARKS: Durham 334-0 dec (S Hulton 172 not out, M A Rosenerry 145 not out) and 20-0; Cotord University 227-4 dec (C M -Guple 113 not out, I J Sutclife 65), Match.

TO DEAL FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-50, 3-50.

BOWLS MELTON MCWBRAY: English men's indoor chemptorships: Singles: First round: J Leernen (Stanley) bi P Leveson (Plymouth CS) 21-10; P Dickins (Nothingtern) bi T Webb (Cotswict) 21-12; D Hammon (Ployal Turibridge Wells) bi J Evens (Feighbridge) 21-20, M Bartock (Desborough) bi A King (Obt Mil) 21-12; S Warren (Westlecot) bi A Tidby (Dordvester) 21-19; J Womes (North Walsham) bi S Walter (Brackley) 27-2; G Sampson (Coverby) bi G Stopp (Thomeby 21-16; B Jerkins (Cambridge Parl) bi P Ayling (fye Green) 21-11. Second round: L Glibet (Chipping - Norton) bi M Kepble (Doverbresh) 21-6; S Stellon (Stanthorpe) bi M Selyer (Cychers) 21-16; J Stamper Felcon) bi I McMethamy (By Green) 21-15. Leernen bi Dickins 21-43; Bartiock bi Harrione 21-9; Wisnes 2-3, Bartiock bi Harrione 21-9; Wisnes 2-13. Peris; Samis-finalsk Mottinghem bi Chipping Norton 21-10; Grambarn bi Dartford Store Lodge 22-16.

EQUESTRIANISM

GENEVA: Volvo World Cup: First lag: 1, ET (M Simon, Austra) 81.57: 2. Special Envoy (F Passon, Br) 82.22; 3. Grannusch (J Whtaleer, GB) 83.81 Other rider: 12. Dollar Girl (M Seelen, GB) 88.80

BRAZIL: São Paulo championship: Sacond suga: Formum 5 União São João 0: Sentos 2 Portuguese 2 XV de Jau 1

POOTBALL

Group free: Faste Journet: Haver Plate 2
Caraces 0.
Thursday's lies weeks:
EUROPEAN CUP Washers: CuP: Surffinale: Second lag: Para Start Comman 1
Deportion La Coruna 0 (Paris S-G won 2-0
or agg): Reput Verina 3 Feyerboard 0
(Rapid won A-1 on agg)
EEAZERT HOMES: LEAGUE: Bouthard
Christon: Witney 1 Astriond 2 Yaller 1.
Torbridge Angels 0
LCS LEAGUE: Framer Caracon: Kingstorten 0 Dutwich 2 Second division:
Barslead 6 Hurgerford 0, Brackred 2
Edgware 3; Hernel Hempstead 0 Carney
Island 2. Third division: Aveley 1 Tring 0:
Northwood 3 Harsheld 1.
AVON INSURANCE COMBRIVATION: Frast
christon: Brighton 1 Tottenbarn 6; Charlton
1 Swindon 2: Second division: Carolil 1
Bernangharn 1.

Shelliad Wad 2 Stolm 3; Wast Brommet 2
Livepool 1.
Promier division: Ansels 5 Handraken
Premier division: Ansels 5 Handraken
Timbers 1; Alexchusch Wile 0 Strafey 6;
Massey Ferguson 1 Covertry Sphirix 2;
Suction Bill, 1 Olion Royale 2;
GREAT Maulit LEAGUE; Fremier division:
Briscol Manor Farm 0 Mangossield 2
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES
LEAGUE: Premier division: Websich 1
Data 2; Woodbridge 2 Parsentram 1
NORTH MEET COUNTIES LEAGUE; Frest
division: Sursection 2 Stolgrove 1, Frest
division: Sursection 2 Stolgrove 1, Frest
division: Sursection 3 Stolgrove 1, Frest
division: Frest Counties 1
Bootle V. Neucastle Town 3 Strafero 1.
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Frest
division: Furness 1 Becleriham 0

GOLF

CANNES OPEN: Early leading second-round scores (38 and in: unless stated): 132: D Corter 70, 62. 139: P Hermigion 68, 65. 139: R Russel 66, 68: 135: I Gentiot (50) 67, 68 130: P McGinley 65, 72. 138: R Dinscales 70, 68. 139: P Affect 71, 189: G Or 71. 88, M Farry (Fr) 70, 69; J Sandelin (Swe) 70, 89; D Edmond (Swe) 71, 69; M Jumatil 67, 72, A Kanidomen (Fri) 70, 69; M Sumatil 67, 72, A Kanidomen (Fri) 70, 69; G Clott 71, 89; M Jorzon (Swe) 69, 70; F Roca (Sp) 64, 75: P Headson (Swe) 69, 70; F Roca (Sp) 64, 75: P Headson (Swe) 69, 70; F Roca (Sp) 64, 75: P Headson (Swe) 69, 70; F Roca (Sp) 71, 70; C C Surasson (Sp) 72, 67 141: P Eales 71, 70; C Hall 72, 69 142: I Pyman 70, 72; S Gallacher 76, 66, R Chapman 70, 72; J Pinaro (Sp) 71, 71; B Lare 70, 72

Larre 10, 72. Father and Son four-tionine locuments Sent-Breix M and M. Hickey (West Hill) of G and M. Larres (Walton Hearth) 3 and 2.3 and P. Rogoti (Littletampion, Persole) bit G and P. Wester (Michighal 2 breize (Wolding) 2 holes: JOHN O'GAUNT: Goven British Pro-lessional Tour qualifier: Leading scores: 132: C Goddard (Briggers House) 69, 63, 135: N Mitchell (Donnington Valley) 54, 71.

ICE HOCKEY EMONONEN, Hellend: World chemplot-ships: Pool B, Swizzerland 5 Poland 2; Latvia 15 Holland 3

RACKETS

NERV YORKS Laconte world doubles championship: First leg; M Smith and S Hazeli (GB) for J Melo and J Prenn (GB) 15-10, 15-72, 16-14, 15-11 REAL TENNIS

(Aut 3-1 CLUB MATCH: Momeon Marral be Brand and Bath 4-1 (Moreon norms hist): J White bt J Rome 6-5, 6-2; A Parmiter bt P Probin 5-6, 6-2, 6-5; J Bisley bt N Ponstord 6-2, 6-2; A Parsons bt J Bretten 6-2, 6-5; L Pery lost to M Jones 6-1, 8-1. RUGBY LEAGUE AUSTRALIAN PROMERSHIP: Manly 22 Auckland 10; Western Reds 14 Canterbury SHOOTING (QNGSTOR: Jurnalca contameny meeting: 300 yele: 1, S Bissonetra (Can), 35 7, 2, M Brister (GB), 35.6; 3, J Frazer (Gu), 35 5.800 yele: 1, M Notatio-Siscover: (GB), 50.7; 2, C Williams: (Jam), 49.8; 3, C Dafristrom (Can), 49.7; 800 yele: 1, D Murray (Car), 74.11; 2, R Brown, (Jam), 73.7; 3, T Newbook (GB), 73.7; Dey aggregate: 1, Brown, 156 17; 2, Dahlstom, 154.18; 3, Newbook (Jam), 754.18; 3, Newbook (Jam

BARCELONN: Spenish Oper: Third round Spen unless stated: T Muste (Austrie) bit 8 Universe (C.) 6-4, 7-5; J Course (U.) bit R Carreters 6-4, 6-3; M Larsson (Swe) bit S Bugustra 6-1, 5-7, 8-3; C Moye bit A Costa 6-2, 1-0; M Rios (Chile) bit I Truyol 1-6, 6-1, 6-4, T Martin (U.S.) bit C Ruad (Not) 6-0, 8-4; A Borasetegul bit J Burdo 6-1, 6-4, Quarter-finels: Course bit Martin 6-3, 7-4; Muster bit Roog 6-1, 6-1; Rios bit Larsson 2-6, 6-1, 6-2; Moye bit Beassategul 6-3, 6-3

Moya bt Bessstegut B-3, 6-3 TONYO: Japan Oper: Men: Quarter-finals: P Sampras (US) bt G Forget (F1) 3-8, 6-4, 7-6; M Woodlorde (Aus) bt T Enquist (See) 6-4, 7-5, H Oredmann (Ger) bt R Krajicek (Holl) 7-6, 7-6 Women: Quarter-finals: A Frazier (US) bt K Po (US) 6-3, 5-0: N Krimus (Japan) bt C Montais (US) 5-5, 3 Semi-final: K Date (Japan) bt A Supyerre (Japan) 6-1, 6-3.





SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

Rest cures Atherton of travel sickness

MICHAEL ATHERTON has dispelled the spectre of a depressing winter and intends to resume the England captaincy with an optimism that was difficult to contemplate amid the disillusionment of an ill-fated World Cup campaign. The lines of fatigue have gone tainty over his future in this most searching of sporting

roles has gone from his voice. It might not have been this way. Atherton admits to a sense of disenchantment with the planning and outcome of discloses having suggested to Raymond Illingworth that he should make way for a younger coach. He also says he questioned his own ability and that he consciously distanced himself from the reaction of public and media to give himself time to think.

Pakistan in March I put everything to the back of my mind," he said. "So much was up in the air, with doubts about the chairman, manager and selectors, and I wanted to see what came out in the wash. I also needed a period to recharge. It was important that I didn't rush anything."

The jigsaw of England's new management structure was completed this week and,

Interactive Team Cricket will be launched in The Times on Monday

although Atherton has not yet been reappointed, there is no doubt that he will soon be invited to continue - and no doubt, now, that he will accept. "I have had a restful couple of weeks to clear my head and I feel very positive," he said.

Atherton's overwhelming feeling in March was one of physical exhaustion. That

was the main problem. It had been one of the longer winter tours in memory." Quite how long was emphasised to him only the other day as he drove from his Didsbury home towards Old Trafford. "I know the route like the back of my hand but I suddenly realised I was lost. I was on an entirely new road that had been built since I was last there."

Atherton had spent ten nights in his own home in six months. He has never been one to moan about the demands of his game but he feels the time has come to take stock. "We must give the England team the best environment to play winning cricket. We didn't do that last

This will be the theme of his comments to the working party set up under David Acfield review the management and preparation of the England team. Actield has already consulted Atherton, who said: "I shall certainly have something to say about the amount



Atherton feels positive after a period of reflection

we are asked to play, because it is a major problem, unique to English cricketers.

"We played poorly in the World Cup but the damage had been done before that, during the seven one-day internationals in South Africa. We worked hard in Pakistan shell-like. It frustrated me that

we had been given no chance

to prepare properly.

The World Cup comes round only once in four years. Other teams built up for it with training camps and a proper amount of rest. We had a week's break after a tiring. five-Test tour. It was a depressing period for me. I don't like being beaten. But things

do get exaggerated. It is sel-dom as bad as people try to make out."

By the time England took their early departure, how-ever, Atherton did not trust himself to speak of the future. "Yes, I was questioning my-self, but that was not unusual. I believe you must analyse your own performance or you will never get things right. You will just stagnate in the job. I knew there were areas we must improve as a team and I accept there are parts of my job I have not done as well

Atherton includes here his sometimes spiky relationship with parts of the media. "Sometimes I suffer with the press from being too straight-forward. If people catch me at a bad moment, perhaps I don't come across too well." Yet the grumpy label that has attached itself to Atherton continues to bemuse him. "I think it's unfair and I'm certainly not a miserable bloke." It is this question of image,

and pretence, with which Atherton is uncomfortable. The modern England captain is under such hawk-like scrutiny

men. "I am not a politician and never will be," he said. It's a part of the job that I don't like. I find it distasteful." Illingworth has never been much of a politician, either: too blunt by far. In this, the chairman of selectors and

that he must be all things to all

Fenner's fizzles out South Africa win ...

captain are alike and their working relationship has im-proved. We had a few early hiccups but I like to think we get along fine now." Atherton said. "We talk things through and it was in Cape Town in January that I openly suggested to him we should have a younger coach with the team. He obviously came round to the idea, which is why he stood down as team man-

Atherton's enthusiasm for the appointment of David Lloyd as coach is not confined to the fact that he is a friend and fellow Lancastrian. "I am convinced he is the right man. Fielding and fitness will be his big things. He will get us practising with more intensity. It will be varied and fun."

There is about Atherton something of the hero without honour. He is admired, his qualities acknowledged, yet the public do not acclaim and defend him as they did, say, Botham and Gower. It is his instinctive protection of his private self and his strong desire not to adopt unnatural airs that may one day make the captaincy intolerable to Atherton. But. please, not yet, for he is a rare asset in a needy game. "I will know when the time is right to give it up," he said firmly. "I will stop when I don't look forward to the big days any more. That is cer-

Olympic selection decision angers British runners

Marathon hopefuls stumble at roadblock

By David Powell, athletics correspondent

PROVIDED that they have breath left after their tirade yesterday against the British Athletic Federation (BAF). Britain's leading men in the Flora London Marathon tomorrow should play a prominent part in what is potentially the most absorbing race in the 16-year history of the event.

David Bedford, the elite race director, describes the London Marathon as "a cross between the Notting Hill Car-nival and the Olympic Games". The men's race tomorrow would not look out of place in the Olympics, such is the strength of the line-up: proof that, as much as Bedford wants a British winner after two barren years, he puts the international credibility of the event above all else.

Dionicio Cerón, from Mexico, is seeking a hat-trick of compatriot has been New York City champion for the

The complete list of finishers and times will be published in The Times next week

past two years and Vincent Rousseau, from Belgium, is the only athlete to have broken 2hr 08min twice. "It is going to be one hell of an achievement if a British runner does win. Eamonn Martin, the last British winner in London, said, A greater achievement would be persuading the federation's selectors to listen to the majority of athletes.

Five British men, who, in the opinion of Alan Storey, the general manager of the marathon, are capable of doing what no Briton has done for seven years - breaking 2:10 feel aggrieved that two Olympic places have been filled and there is only one to race for. All agreed - Martin, Paul Evans, Mark Hudspith, Jon Solly and Gary Staines - that London should be an official Olympic trial. The counter argument is that the two selected. Peter Whitehead and Richard

Nerurkar, fourth and seventh in the world championships last vear, have

Again, the complaint came up that Nerurkar had been picked in January, while he was injured. This time, however, he got his retaliation in first, running a 61min 06sec half-marathon in Paris last

"Jonathan Edwards has not been pre-selected, yet they went ahead and selected two marathon runners," Hudspith said. "I find it strange they have picked two runners who been injured," Martin said. "None of us know what we have got to do to get the last place ... a classic British fuddle," Solly said. All this was just pacemaking for Bedford, a former 10,000 metres world record-holder, who sat in their shadows then attacked without hesitation.

Bedford supported the athletes' view that London should be the Olympic trial and, directing specific criticism at Alan Warner, the chairman of selectors, said: "I believe that has not happened because there are some people in the [BAF] road-running commission who have commitments to other spring marathons." Bedford was referring to Warner's role as a consultant the Boston Marathon. which was held on Monday.

He added: "The chairman of the road-running commission is yet again not here in London. He has gone on holiday. I think that is a disgrace." Bedford produced a copy of Warner's reply to the invitation for him to be present, regretting his absence and saying he was taking a holiday. Warner was unavail-

able for comment. Unless he changes his mind, he will miss a classic race. As well as Cerón. Silva and Rousseau, Antonio Serrano, from Spain, and Domingos Castro, from Portugal, are considerable threats to a British victory. Castro, at 12-1.



Towers of London: Britain's marathon hopefuls line up in the capital yesterday. From top: Evans, Staines, Solly, Martin, the last British winner, and Hudspith

bet. A former world championship silver medal-winner at 5,000 metres, he is a relative newcomer to the marathon but won in Paris last year in

2hr 10min 06sec. Martin, whose build-up has been his best for a marathon since 1993, and Evans are Britain's main contenders and both expect to break 2:10,

provided the weather is favourable - and the forecast yesterday offered plenty of encouragement.

The pacemaker will be advised to go through halfway around 63min 30sec, ideal to beat Steve Jones's course record of 2:08.16 while keeping the world best, 2:06.50, within

There is no pacemaker for the women's race. Liz McColgan will need to run close to the British women's record of 2hr 25min 56sec, held by Veronique Marot, if she is to beat Malgorzata Sobanska, the defending champion, from Poland and three good Kenyans.

Queens of the road, page 43

RFU dispute puts £1m cash injection at risk

By DAVID HANDS HUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE internecine wrangling between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and its leading clubs threatens to deprive the sport of thousands of pounds. Yesterday, a leading London invest-ment group told the warring factions than unless their dispute is resolved, a El million agreement might go

Leander investments Ltd has been in negotiations with two clubs - one

Courage Clubs Championship, the other from the third - for the past three months. But they will make no commitment until the dispute is solved: "Because of the ongoing impasse between the RFU and some of the major clubs ... it is at present uncertain where professionalism is

taking the game," a statement said. "The squabbling must cease otherwise companies like Leander will have no option but to invest elsewhere." Last year the group, which deals in development, decided to into leisure and sport.

"Because we have a love of rugby, we spoke to clubs we knew," Andrew Braddon, the joint managing director, who formerly played for Old Alleynians, said.

We wanted to give them commercial support and try to structure a more professional management committee. The investment was well into seven figures."

Leander were close to signing a lucrative deal before the rift became so great and now the group is concerned "Looking at this as businessmen, you can't have a series of groups with their own ideas, there isn't enough money to go round." Braddon said. "We as a group could put money into a club which ends up out of the top section."

It is a clear warning to English rugby to overcome its differences, at a time when the leading clubs are canvassing for exactly the interest Leander - and other companies - are expressing.

> Court victory, page 3 Costly dispute, page 45

> > 1 00 1 Ja

FA adds new colour to fashion argument

By PETER BALL their £60 million sponsorship

discovered he does not have

the same clout as the manager of Manchester United. "Fur-

ther to my remarks earlier

today, I can confirm that the

ONCE upon a time people worried about how footballers deal. Faced with criticism from Phillips, Umbro also played. This week the main reacted quickly, and the FA commercial director quickly concern has been how they look. Alex Ferguson blamed United's grey change strip for their defeat at Southampton: vesterday Trevor Phillips, the Football Association's commercial director, described David Seaman as looking like "a tube of Refreshers" in England's new away goalkeeping strip.
Phillips described the de-

sign of the new kit as "a clanger", which had been dropped after taking expert advice. The net result is that David Seaman has to walk out of the tunnel onto the Wembley pitch looking like a tube of Refreshers," Phillips told a London conference.

"You can only apologise, hold your hands up to it and put it right as soon as you can." That sounded like more bad news for Umbro, but it soon turned out that the colours of the day remained Refreshers, and in particular the red and yellow worn by Phillips - red as in face and yellow as in "egg on".

Faced with the gruff statement "enough is enough" from Alex Ferguson, Umbro responded quickly to protect England away goalkeeper's kit will not be changing and will be worn for the next two years," Phillips said.

The reaction to the kit has. been tremendous," Alan Hadfield. Umbro's managing director, said, and any suspicion that he was using the word to mean large rather than good was dispelled when he added. the kit has been a resounding

So. unlike Steve Bruce and Eric Cantona, who got their grey shirts abandoned, David Seaman, whose unhappiness at the shirt was evident a wed go, will have to put up with his multicoloured outfit.

But what will happen it David James comes through "Armani's No I" maintain his street cred - and lucrative modelling contract - if he had to appear looking like a "tube of Refreshers?" What would Armani say?

Umbro have not been the only manufacturers with difficulties this week. Adidas have Newcastle fans in tracking down a £200,000 consignment of the new Newcastle strip which was hijacked on its way to the North East. Three menhave been arrested, but of the shirts there is no

Rob Hughes, page 42





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Accuracy of hi-tech tools of war cannot be guaranteed

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

THE Israeli bombardment of the United Nations refugee camp near Tyre has highlighted the huge risks of using unguided heavy firepower to hit small targets close to civilian communities.

The fear of "collateral damage" was one of the guiding principles which helped to focus the American-led coalition when it launched massive air raids on Iraqi targets during the 1991 Gulf War. Hezbollah units launching Katyusha rockets and mortar rounds into northern Israel do not face the same restrictions. Their shells are fired indiscriminately at Israeli communities and there is no concern about accuracy.

Israel has far more sophisticated equipment with which to target Hezbollah gunners, yet the artillery deployed on the Lebanese border, American 155mm MI09A2s, can never achieve pinpoint accuracy target acquisition guidance from a forward observer providing a grid reference. It is unlikely that the Israelis had anyone so far forward. They also use remotely-piloted air vehicles, or drones, to provide target surveillance, but the Israelis do not have models that give instantly transmitted photo-

Shelling accuracy, therefore, relies on weapon locating radar which can help to pin-

WEAPONS point the launch spot of Hezbollah rockets. Under this system, however, a 155mm shell can still land within a range of about 300 yards of the target. Hezbollah admitted

that it had a gunner unit close to the UN camp. Artillery shells land in an area called mean point impact", which allows for a degree of inaccuracy, about 300 yards deep and 50-70 yards wide. However, even

ISRAEL

without forward spotters are accurate in a

rectangle 70 yards by 330 yards and each shall's explosion can kill

open fire with 155mm M109

though this is relatively accurate for a high explosive shell fired from up to 11 miles away. weather and atmospheric conditions can produce wide

Hezbollah is firing both 82mm mortars and Katyusha rockets against Israel. However, instead of the more visible multi-barrelled Katyusha system which have to be trans-ported by lorry — the type used by the Palestine Liberation Organisation against northern Israel during the 1970s and early 1980s, and also by the Serbs against Zagreb. the Croatian capital -Hezbollah is deploying portsingle-launcher Katyusha rockets fired from

Once fired, the launcher can be packed up quickly and removed from the area. This which is based on the former Soviet 122mm BM21 rocket, can also be fired with a timing device. This would explain why the Israeli military, despite special artillery-locating

KATYUSHA ROCKET

difficulty in destroying the Hezbollah launchers. The Is-raelis are equipped with the Hughes-designed American AN/TPQ 36 Firefinder radar system, which electronically scans the horizon over a 90 degree sector several times a second, intercepting and automatically tracking incoming rockets or shells. It then uses the trajectory to calculate the launch site.

However, Christopher Foss. editor of Jane's Armour and Artillery, said the Katyusha system, which is the generic name for all Russian unguided mckets, was so fast from launch to target that there was little time for the Israelis to guarantee tracking accuracy. even with AN/TPQ 36 radar.

Mortar rounds reach a high altitude before descending to the target, giving at least 20 to 30 seconds for the Israelis to locate the firing point. However, the trajectory of the Katyusha, which has a range of more than eight miles, has only a 50 degree elevation from the ground and travels at a maximum of more than 750 vards a second.

The M109A2 self-propelled howitzer used by the Israelis has a normal rate of fire of one round per minute but three rounds per minute can be fired for a limited period. The Israelis also have a M107 howitzer which has a special



Israeli gunners pray at their position on the northern border with Lebanon yesterday

new colourto n argument



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Cairo attack claims puzzle officials

FROM MARK HUBAND

GREEK officials were yesterday analysing conflicting faxed statements apparently sent by Islamic fundamentalists after the killing of 17 Greek tourists and one Egyptian outside a Cairo hotel on

Thursday. The city has effectively been cordoned off from the rest of the country as security forces search for the gunmen. Police are believed to have made 12 arresis.

The Egyptian Government is keen to reassure foreigners that the attack does not mark a resurgence of Islamist violence directed at tourists. If the killings are proven to be linked with Israel's attacks in south Lebanon, this would support the Government's

EGYPT

The faxes were from the

radical Gamaa al-Islamiya group, according to the private Athens-based television company which received

position.

A first fax said the Islamicmilitants had carried out the slaughter of mostly women pensioners at the Eu-ropa Hotel. But a second denied responsibility and said the Gamaa al-Islamiya was

opposed to such violence. A snokeswoman for the Greek Embassy in Cairo said the authenticity of the state-ments was still being examined. The faxes are the only clue so far received in response to the attack, the worst on foreign tourists since they first became targets in 1992. The last attack was five months ago, and Thursday's carnage was the first in Cairo

☐ Athens: Grieving relatives gathered at the capital's main margue to callect the bodies of the 17 Greek pilgrims killed in the Cairo attack. The Transport Ministry said extra charter flights were planned to bring back hundreds of Greek tourists wanting to cut short their visits to Egypt. Travel agencies estimate there are

HELLO MR WALDEN

Egypt. (AP)

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Grachev

ready to

quit over

ambush

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW PAVEL GRACHEV, the Russian Defence Minister, of-

fered to resign yesterday after a national outcry erupted over

the death of scores of Russian

servicemen in an ambush by

In a surprise announce-

ment before the Duma, the

lower house of parliament, General Grachev, the hawk-

ish mastermind of the disas-

trous Chechenia campaign,

admitted that 53 Russian

troops were killed and 52

wounded when their poorly

defended convoy came under attack on Tuesday.

"I am ready to resign if deputies consider that I am to blame," the general said. He

added that the commander of

the infantry regiment, whose

men sustained the casualties.

had been relieved of his

Although the Duma does

not have the power to dismiss the Defence Minister, Presi-

dent Yeltsin does. The mili-tary leadership is to blame

and will be held responsible

for what has happened," de-clared the Russian leader between meetings with visit

ing heads of government of the Group of Seven leading

Chancellor, said be told Mr Yeltsin that Russia and the world was waiting for the fighting to end. He read

firmed that he will do what he

industrialised nations. Helmut Kohl, the Gern

Chechen separatists.

Major extends a helping hand for Yeltsin campaign

FROM JILL SHERMAN IN MOSCOT

JOHN MAJOR last night gave tacit backing to President Yeltsin's re-election campaign after a blunt exchange of views with Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist front-runner.

The Prime Minister had a 30-minute meeting with Mr Zyuganov, the candidate of a broad Left coalition, who leads in polls for what is emerging as a two-horse race in June. Mr Major then went on to meet President Yeltsin who was hosting the G7 summit on nuclear safety which opened with a state dinner here last

night.
At a press briefing after the meetings, Mr Major indicated that Mr Zyuganov did not share Mr Yeltsin's reforming zeal. "He explained what he was about and what he sees as priorities in this country. But self-evidently he doesn't believe that those priorities should concern people elsewhere," Mr Major said. "I underlined to him the importance we attach to the reform programme."

Mr Zyuganov has made it clear that he intends to reverse many of the Russian reforms and would return several enterprises to the state sector.

Mr Major went as far as he could diplomatically to en-

Nuclear safety pact agreed

World leaders are scheduled today to discuss in detail plans to shut dangerous nuclear reactors and make others safer. In particular, the G7 nations have agreed with Ukraine to finance the decommissioning of the two reactors still operating at Chernobyl. Government heads are due to sign an agreement to boost intelligence co-operation and tighten security around fissile materials.

dorse Mr Yeltsin's candidacy. 'It is not for anyone to determine who should be the President of Russia. That is a matter for the Russian people and it would be impertinent for me to state a preference," he said.

"But we do have a very strong view that the reform programme is very important and we wish to see the reform programme proceed and I think that is a view very widely held right across the In an interview with the

local newspaper Argumenty i Fakty. Mr Major said: "We have very good working rela-tions with Mr Yeltsin. We have known him for a very long time and we very much admire what he's seeking to

"Of course personal relations impact when one knows people. We are prepared to assist. help and work with



John Major and President Yeltsin in the Kremlin after a reception for G7 leaders who are meeting to discuss nuclear safety

vance the reform process and that is a matter of greatest

importance."
Mr Major underlined this message by announcing a £50 million allocation from Britain's Know How fund set up to help Eastern countries with economic reform. His tacit endorsement will delight Mr

MORTGAGES

WITH UP TO

CASHBACK

Yeltsin, who is hoping that the Moscow summit will give a big boost to his election

campaign.
At their bilateral meeting. Mr Major also reassured Mr Yeltsin that Nato enlargement would proceed cautiously and slowly. The Russian people feel threatened by the proposed expansion of Nato and have challenged Mr Yeltsin over the issue

Yesterday Mr Major said that Nato wanted good and close relations with Russia. "I don't think there is any threatening aspect at all about Nato expansion, nor is there any great hurry about it. I think

people are raising concerns that are unreal." Mr Major also told Mr Yeltsin of concern in the West about reports that the violation human rights in Chechenia was increasing. British officials said the Prime Minister had impressed upon Mr Yeltsin that the violence had to end.

Warning

water shortage

THE world is running out of fresh water, with more than a fifth of the population facing drought by the middle of the next century, a United Nations-backed report says.

Booming populations, the growth of cities and industries n the developing world, poliution and the demand for food and irrigation schemes mean a minimum of more than 40 countries will have insufficient water supplies, affecting as many as 2.43 billion people.

But the World Resources report, published yesterday, gives a warning that the number under threat could be even higher with regional shortages and droughts also likely in countries with more bounti

Funded by the UN's dev

World Resources: A Guide to the Global Environment 1996-97. Oxford University Press.

BY NICK NUTTALL

efficiently.

ENVIRONMENT

Yeltsin when he criticised the President's peace imitiative launched three weeks ago which aims at securing a ceasefire and pulling out Russian troops by the end of the

"I am not against the peace plan but so far it allows the fighters to concentrate their forces. We should not forgethat they are bandits and the should be destroyed." General Grachev told the deputies.



CORRESPONDENT

ful water resources. elopment and environment programmes, the World Bank and the World Resources Institute, it claims the key to heading off the crisis is to reduce pollution of underground resources and to use water in agriculture more



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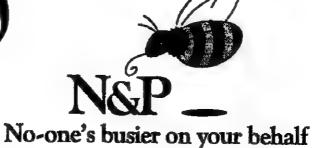
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can to stop the conflict," Heri Kohl said, "Yeltsin knows his re-election depends on whelli-er or not the lighting stops. General Grachev did little to endear timself to Mic

"I regret that I have not been

Pasta's

masters

source

the votes

□ There are no exit polls

this year, because they proved so inaccurate last

time, but according to Milan food experts you can

by what he eats. Table-

watchers at an election

feast in a top Milan restau-

rant said rightwingers pre-

fer lasagne, liver and baccala (dried cod) while

leftwingers go for "ethnic dishes" and tend to avoid

Lamberto Dini. the cen-

heavy sauces.



"Englishwoman Tana" takes on the Right in fight for Senate seat

IN A busy market near the Vatican walls Tana de Zulueta canvassed for the Italian Senate, chatting to potential voters with the slight awkwardness of a newcomer to politics.

'I'm not a native Italian, you know," she said to a stallholder standing behind a huge pile of artichokes, "I'm half English and half Spanish.

"Don't worry," said the man, grinning. "I could tell from your accent, but good luck to you. Who knows, you might be able to sort us out where many real Italians have failed,"

The sight of an "Anglo Saxon viper", as one rightwing newspaper recently called Signora de Zulueta. campaigning for the Centre Left in an Italian election has raised a few eyebrows. In fact, she has Italian nationality through her husband, a senior figure in the Italian equivalent the CBI. She also has

For Switzers

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nationality; her father is from a noted anti-Franco political family, but her mother is English, and Signora de Zulueta went to Cambridge,

Moreover, for 20 years she was a correspondent in Italy for British publications, including The Economist and The Sunday Times, before taking the plunge into politics. She is standing for the Senate in tomorrow's election in the surprisingly high profile seat of Rome Central. In the eyes of the Italian press, she is Tana l'inglese (Tana the English-

issues facing this country. 1 was very supportive two years ago when the centre-left bloc was formed under the name The Olive Tree', I feel Italy should be presented with two clear alternatives, Centre Left and Centre Right, to avoid constant weak coalitions and

The last elections, in 1994, produced a short-lived centreght coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon. This time The Olive Tree, led by Romano Prodi, an economics professor, hopes to persuade voters that a combination of former Communists, centrists and left-wing Catholics can be trusted with power.

What will they do if they win? "Reduce Berlusconi's power over the media," Signora de Zulueta says without hesitation. "One of the reasons I agreed when Prodi asked me to stand was that I think it's an absolute priority that Italy straightens out the problem of media control. The fact that

She read anthropology and archaeology at Cambridge, after a series of overseas schools (her father worked for the World Health Organisation) and a spell at an English boarding school.

mum democratic guarantees

no longer exist. The situation

can only get worse If he becomes Prime Minister

Berlusconi and anti-corrup-

tion judges over alleged mal-practice in his business empire also worries her. "If he

wins, there will be a head-on

clash between the judiciary

and the Right, which will try

to reduce the judges' indepen-

dence. I fear Italy will pay a

Signora de Zulueta is 44,

softly spoken, and dresses

with understated elegance. As

a journalist at work long before the "Clean Hands"

anti-corruption judges over-

turned the old order in 1992,

she helped to expose the

scandals surrounding corrupt

Christian Democratic politi-

cians, the mysterious activities of the P2 Masonic lodge and of

Banco Ambrosiano, the "Vati-

heavy price."

can bank".

She went to Italy, where her maternal grandparents had retired, became involved in ournalism, and met her future husband. In effect, she married Italy. "When I was asked to stand I was very honoured. My previous political activity was confined to writing some position papers for Professor Prodi. I told the selection committee I was Italian by choice, which was a pigger commitment than being Italian by birth. They seemed to like that".

Her opponent is the incumbent senator, Giulio Maceratini, 58, a senior member of the "post-Fascist" Alleanza Nazionale, which evolved from Mussolini's Blackshirts but now claims to be respectably "right of centre". Signora de Zulueta dismissed his claims to be moderate. "He is to the right of his party," she He got in with only 42 per cent



GIANIFFIANCO FINI Aged 44, From Bologna. Leader of the

had made in the same will be a same in the same in 1994, brought worths in 1994, brought were and entrepreneural spirit to government but was brought down by posi-Fascist' Alleanza Nazionath, Becami leader of the neo-Fascist Movimento Sociale Italiano (MSI), heir to Mussolini's Blackshirts, in 1987 at the age of 35. Dissolved the MSI to create more moderate Alleanza Nazionale in 1955, has given legitimacy to the government out was brought down by corruption charges. Faces trial for alleged bribery of tox officials, invests he is still the Centre Right's applicate are Drives sandidate for Prime



ROMANO PRODI Aged 54. From Varese, Aged 56. Economics leader of the separatist Northern League and a senator since 1987. He unkempt, unpredictable often toul-mouthed and Aged So. Constitues professor. From Bologna. Unassuming centra-left candidate for Prima Minister. Product of Milan Carlotic demagogic, but also a shrewd tactician who University, visiting professor at Harvard in 1974, Has never held an transformed a 1980s local profest movemen into a national force. Bossi alms to create a elected post. He is a Bossi aims to create nation of the North

ITALY'S election tomorrow

appeared too close to call.

with many voters saying they

intended to abstain. Most

commentators yesterday pre-

dicted a centre-right coalition

led by Silvio Berlusconi, with

Gianfranco Fini's "post-Fas-

cist" Alleanza Nazionale as the

But the Centre Left, which

includes the former Commu-

nists, made what La Stampa

called a "last-minute spurt",

and there were signs that the

money markets were banking

on a centre-left coalition led by

Romano Prodi, a respected

professor of economics. "The

Centre Left has its best chance

since the Second World War,"

said Renato Mannheimer.

professor of politics at Genoa

as L'Ulivo, or The Olive Tree.

dominant force.



Aged 65. Current Prime Minister, From Florence, Machiavellian cunning. administration when Berlusconi fell. Surprised



Money markets bank on late

spurt by Olive Tree coalition

From Richard Owen in rome

challenged the Right by hold-

ing its final election rally in the

Piazza del Popolo, traditional-

ly the site of right-wing dem-

onstrations. One hundred and

fifty thousand people attend-

ed, making a sea of green and

white flags, the colours of the

centrist parties, with occasion-

al flashes of red. "Two years

ago it was nearly all red flags,"

said one Olive Tree supporter.

"Now the Centre Left is more

The platform reflected this

shift, with Professor Prodi

standing alongside Lamberto

Dini, the caretaker Prime

Minister since the last

Berlusconi Government col-

lapsed at the end of 1994.

Signor Dini, who created

Rinnovamento Italiano, or

centre than left."

THE KEY PLAYERS

Aged 47, Leader of the Democratic Party of the Left, or PDS. From Rome. Helped to transform the old Italian Communist Party. A lifetong Communist Party official, D'Alemo made his bid for the leadership etter party's defeat in 1994. He holds











aligned with neither Left nor

Right. But his appearance

yesterday was a sign that he

had plumped for an alliance

with the Party of the Demo-

Conservatives at a rival

rally in Piazza Navona said

the moderation of the Centre

Left was an illusion. But a

survey by L'Espresso maga-

zine of stockbrokers and inves-

tors showed that 55 per cent

favour a centre-left govern-

ment. Investment analysis

said although Signor Berlus-

coni was a dynamic business-

man, corruption charges had

clouded his career, while Si-

gnor Fini's "corporatist" neo-

Fascist ideology would under-

mine the lira. By contrast, Professor Prodi was a "safe

Dini had steered Italy through

cratic Left.

trist Prime Minister whose looks have earned him the nickname II Rospo (The Toad), turns out to be very fond of ranocchie (fried frogs). Silvio Berlusconi is on a diet of strawberries and kiwi fruit, and cuts out lunch altogether, to ensure that he looks slim and elegant on television. ☐ The Countess Donatella Pecci-Blunt, a striking blonde, has come out in

CAMPAIGN NOTEBOOK

support of Lamberto Dini and his Rinnovamento Italiano party. This week she sent out last-minute invitations to an impromptu high society do at her fifteenth-century palazzo at the foot of the Piazza del Campidoglio, with a pian-ist playing left-wing songs and a glant cake with Signor Dini's name on it. □ Down in Sorrento the patrician Mario d'Urso, the energetic former president of Lehman Brothers and an intimate of Rockefeller and Agnelli, is running for the Centre Left, campaigning stylishly up and down the Amalfi coast in a speedboat with a portable telephone from which he urges the great and and the good in their villas to vote Left.

☐ Whoever is elected tomorrow will have an uphill job getting voters to remember who they are. A survey suggests 88 per cent of voters could not name a single candidate in their constituencies.

RICHARD OWEN



Tana de Zulueta drums up support in a Rome market before tomorrow's elections

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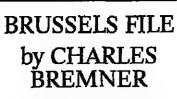
Scourge of Britain's beef herd takes stock

troubled relations with its European parmers, popular wrath has focused on a long procession of continental villains. Sometimes the dastardly Eurocrat is a natural for

tabloid caricature, as was the case with Jacques Delors, the French former President of the Commission and irascible philosopherking of Maastricht fame.

It is harder to make a bogeyman out of Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner and latest haut fonctionnaire to attract British ire. "That awful man in a beard," seems to be the worst that British papers could hurl at the beef-eating Austrian whose ali-mentary intentions sparked indig-

The burly, amiable-mannered Herr Fischler, 49, is a newcomer,



having arrived last year as Austria's first Commissioner after five years as its Agriculture Minister. A surprise choice for one of the hottest seats in the Commission, he has earned high marks in the Brussels power game. He had also proved himself "on the side of the angels", as a British official put it, advocating reform of the common

agriculture policy (CAP).

Before landing in the biggest Euro-British spat for years, Herr Fischler had managed to win the confidence of the European consumer lobbies and farmers. He has shepherded in new rules on

Connoisseur choc horror

PATRIOTIC Belgians are fuming over a largely unsung British victory this week. The Commission's decision to give EU-wide approval to British-style chocolate, which usually contains vegetable fat, was too much to swallow for the country that prides itself as the world headquarters of fine chocolate. The official blessing for chocolate. The official blessing for over everything else, over the the "ersatz" stuff, cheaper to make quality of life and good taste".

and banned from production in half the EU states, amounts to sacrilege, said Le Solr, the main Brussels paper. According to Jacques Mercier, a full-time "chocolate writer", Belgians must resist any temptation to make or eat the adulterated stuff. The decision, he said, showed "the reign of money



crates and food quality. His resistance to allowing imports of hormone-raised beef has annoyed Britain, but been welcomed across the Continent. At the

same time, he has calmed the anguish of the French over letting rivals from the old Communist bloc share the bounty of the CAP when they join the Union.

The son of a Tyrolean farmer. Herr Fischler earned a doctorate in agriculture before entering politics in 1990 as a Christian Democrat MP. One of his shrewd moves as a man with little foreign experience was to surround himself with one of the most international teams in the Commission.

A private man, his only visible ness for garish ties featuring farm animals. He spends weekdays alone in a modest Brussels flat. He eschews the usual limousines and walks to the Commission to start work at 7am, putting in longer days than most. At weekends he returns to his small farm in the Tyrolean village of Absam to be with his wife. Heidl, and four

It was his decision to go to the got the better of his usual calm. Tyrol on the first weekend of the beef crisis that led to the public relations stumble. Landing back in Brussels after the emergency



veterinary meeting was nearly over, he made a premature an-nouncement of the beef ban, promising to put a "ring fence" around Britain, a remark from which he later retreated. His anger over the failure of Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, to warn him of the Commons announcement on Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

When a British reporter turned up on his doorstep in Absam last Sunday, his instinct for plainspeaking led him to the remark that he would eat British beef because there was nothing medibeen managed better. cally wrong with it.

Herr Fischler is appalled at being painted as the agent of an anti-British campaign. London, he believes, created the crisis by announcing a possible link between mad cows and CJD, and he is only trying to deal with a threat to the whole European industry. "He feels badly about Hogg not warning him," a colleague said. "If Europe's most thankless tasks.

there had been a bit of warning, maybe the whole thing could have

While the affair has cast Herr Fischler as the scourge of John Bull's beef, his management of the crisis is well rated at the Commission. In Vienna he is being cited as a potential candidate for the chancellorship or the presidency. He is doing little to discourage such talk, but many a trap still lies

Working for family values

FANCY a job in the well-paid ranks of the Eurocracy? Normally there is an army of supplicants in fierce competitive exams, but not for the Committee of the Regions, the youngest of EU institutions.

Here, the mere tug of a string by a well-placed contact can do the trick. Since the Maastricht treaty brought it into existence two years ago to bring Europe closer to its citizens, this council of 222 local politicians has earned a reputation for alleged nepotism.

The committee, whose ranks embrace German regional bosses and humble British councillors, was supposed to have mended its ways after an inquiry and the anointment last month of Pasqual Maragall, the Socialist Mayor of Barcelona, as its president.

However, old habits persist, according to the staff unions, which resorted this week to a 100person sit-in. The spark was the nduction of 20 new civil servants to £35,000-a-year jobs on the basis of brief interviews.

This type of political corruption is unprecedented," said Frank Patterson, vice-president of the Union Syndicale, the Eurocrats' main staff union. "They just walked in and had a chat and walked out as European officials."

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Half of the committee's 80 permanent civil servants, including a beyy of Britons, are relatives or friends of insiders, says the union. It has issued Senor Maragall with a warning of further action.

Nastase courts votes in mayoral contest

FROM REUTER IN BUCHAREST

ILIE NASTASE, the Romanian former tennis star. launched his campaign to be Mayor of Bucharest yesterday with the backing of Nadia Comaneci, the former communist country's other sporting

"I wish you every success from a sportswoman to a sportsman," Miss Comaneci told Mr Nastase after a kiss for the cameras.

He built a name, he rebuilds a city," proclaimed his campaign slogan on banners over one of Bucharest's most elegant mansions.

On a wall outside, carefully written graffiti Ilie Primar (Hie for Mayor) suggested his campaign managers were also

going for the common touch. Outside the hall, politicians and journalists scrambled for pens and lighters bearing his

In a country short on glamour and contemporary heroes, the combination of Mr Nastase, 49, the former French Open champion, and Miss Comaneci, makes a powerful image for the ruling Party of Social Democracy, which faces municipal and national elections this year.

President fliescu is hosting a reception for Miss Comaneci's gala wedding to a fellow Olympic gymnast, American Bart Conner, next week. The leader of the ruling party will be the bride's godfather.



Régine: accused of intimidation on plane

French fume over club queen arrest

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

RÉGINE, the veteran Paris nightclub owner, singer_and socialite who taught the Duke of Windsor the Twist, faced charges of assault and intimidation in a Boston court yesterday after she and her son got into an argument with air-

line staff over smoking.
Régine, 67, the self-styled
"Queen of the Night" who
once ran a string of nightclubs from Paris to London to Rio de Janeiro, was on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami when her son Lionel Rotcage, a former editor of the French edition of Rolling Stone magazine, lit up.
A steward asked Mr Rot-

cage, 47, to put out the cigarette or smoke at the back of the plane, but he declined, observing: "I don't give a

damn about the law." When the steward insisted, Mr Rotcage asked: "What are you go-ing to do? Shoot me?" Threatened with legal action, he allegedly responded: "You do that and I'll shoot you down."

During the ensuing altercation, the chief steward was allegedly jostled and the captain announced an emergency landing to offload the fuming Mr Rotcage.

At this point the redoubtable Regine — her married name is Choukroun, but she prefers to be known by her regal first name — followed the captain back to the cockpit, "making obscene declarations", an FBI report said. "You can't tell me what to do," she declared in the shrill tones she once used to quieten unruly night-club-

bers. The last time someone told me what to do was when the Nazis invaded Paris." On landing in Boston both

mother and son were arrested

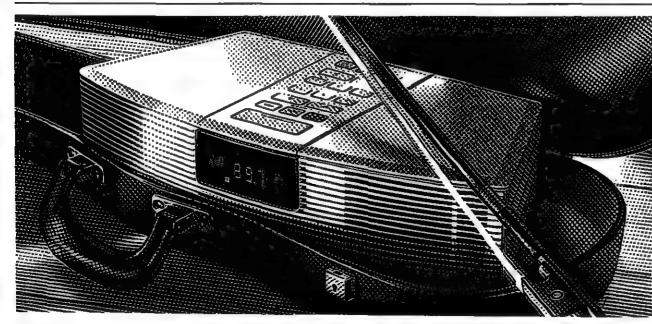
by the FBI and charged with

assault, intimidation and interfering with the flight crew. The woman still known in France as the "Queen of hearts, clubs and diamonds" now has mouble in spades since she and her son each face up to 20 years in prison and

fines of \$250,000 if convicted. The incident has provoked outrage in France, where the colourful Régine, and smoking in forbidden places, are both enduringly popular. The newspaper France-Soir pointed out that the US is a country where tobacco is on the way to being considered a drug while arms are freely on sale". Even the usually sober Le Monde noted in a headline. Regine and her son threatened with prison for the sake of a cigarette".

The Belgian-born Regime opened her first club in 1957 and built up a chain of 19 worldwide. Once she received a telephone call at 11pm from the secretary of the Duke of Windsor asking her to go to his Paris house and teach dinner-party guests how to de the Twist, the popular 19606? dance. In a canny marketing move, she insisted the royal party come to her club if they wanted a tutorial and, accord ing to Régine, they did.

Régine and her son were released on Thursday after surrendering their passports.



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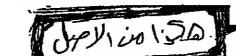
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OPINION

Is the arts establishment awarding too many goodies to boost the prestige of the capital?



MUSICALS

All you need is love . . . and a magic piano: Slade's Salad Days returns to the West End THE



CHOICE

From top Canadian ballet to the best pop gigs: the pick of the shows are in Weekend, pages 14 and 15



ON MONDAY

Tony Harrison's new Victor Hugo adaptation, The Prince's Play: read Benedict Nightingale's view

Tas it only last year that suave chaps from the Arts Council were assuring us that lottery money would not be "carved up" by the London-based arts establishment? Indeed it was - and their guarantees sounded so genuine, so heartich. All would benefit! From cornet players in Lancashire to busty mezzos at Covent Garden, the lottery largesse would flow evenly! Milk and honey all round!

Well, it has flowed all right. But most of the lottery cash has flowed in one direction. To say that the lion's share has been swiped by London would be to slander the communal generosity of big cats. The fact is that London's arty-smarties have demonstrated a greed for other people's money, and a genius for finagling it, that would leave many a smash-andgrab raider gaping in admiration.
I try not to allow too many facts and figures to intrude upon my articles. I find them unhelpful to

my arguments. But in this case I

make an exception. Because lottery

London calling, but Britain paying awards are announced in dribs and drabs, the cumulative scope of

London's dominance is hard to

grasp. So let's have a quick glance

at the old scoreboard so far. Covent Garden has been given £78 million, Sadler's Wells £30m. the Royal Court £16m, the National Theatre £32m and the Globe £12m. The British Museum has enjoyed two massive handouts: £30m and £8m. The National Maritime Museum has picked up a useful £12m, and a tolerable £50m has gone to the Tate's Bankside project, Kew Gardens gets £21m for a "seed bank" (they must shop at the same garden centre as we do); and Greenwich gets £200m for Millennium jollies.

Readers with a head for numbers will have totted up this little list and found a total not far short of half a billion pounds. That's just for ten major projects. I hesitate to mention the £344,540 of lottery dosh awarded so that the Institute of Contemporary Arts can "examine its future role". Future role? You mean it had one in the past? Or the £114,538 that will let the

Laban Dance Centre in Lewisham commission a "study to determine whether the Centre should redevelop its facilities". Gosh, how many consultants does it take to walk round a dance school? And there's more lottery lolly

coming London's way. Much, much more. The South Bank Centre has high hopes for its £127m bid — yes, that is the bid which was £45m a year ago. Inflation in the arts is an awesome sight, is it not? English National Opera is confident of extracting a few million to do up the Coliscum. Wembley Stadium is expecting a

vast handout. And so on.

RICHARD MORRISON

bias in favour of London. A report last week pointed out that the lottery money awarded to London so far has been 700 times greater, per head of population, than that

shire has been given precisely 3p per person. I don't favour moving the Royal Opera House to Lutan the Royal Opera House to Luton, although that would be a fascinat-ing sociological experiment. But I can see why people in the regions might form the impression that the lottery has been stitched up by a

gang of metropolitan cronies.

"Ah yes," the London apologists counter, "but London has to compete against Paris, Berlin, Vienna and other formidably endowed European capitals." True enough. But "second cities" must also compete internationally: Birmingham must keep up with Barcelona, Munich, Milan, So must third, fourth and fifth cities.

Ten years ago, the Arts Council seemed to acknowledge this, devolving subsidy and power to the regions, and fostering a great many centres of artistic excellence

public discussion or announcement, the policy has been reversed, and reversed in astonishingly blatant fashion. London gets two, or possibly three, lavishly refur-bished lyric theatres; the excellent Welsh National Opera is refused

even one proper home,

That's not good for the arts in Britain, and not good for London either. The impression in the capital is not one of carefully planned cultural growth, but of a wildly uncontrolled freefor-all in which overlapping schemes are allowed to chase after the same sources of private and corporate backing - and, in the long run, after the same limited audiences and subsidy. What you are seeing is not a drive to enrich London's artistic life, but a ruth-

less dash for each that is then used

to fortify the most powerful cultur-

Meanwhile, where are the lot-tery-funded schemes — promised by the Prime Minister last year that are supposed to initiate an "arts renaissance" in schools? Mysteriously, they are being formulated rather more slowly than London's megabuck projects. Nurturing the audiences and performers of tomorrow? Widening the desperately narrow social base that supports the arts? Not one of our priorities, old boy.

Ah well, let's finish on a defiantly regional note. What I want to know is: how are the people of Bedfordshire going to blow their 3p-per-head lottery handout this year? A magnum of inexpensive bubbly, perhaps, and a million straws? Or new shirts for Luton Town Football Club, with the promise of matching shorts to follow next season? Perhaps our readers in that part of the world would let Mrs Bottomley know. She does read her foreign mail.

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GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

TOM HOLLANDER

Profession: Actor Age: 28 Appearance: Cherub gone to seed. Forte: The comedy and

charisma of villainy. Nasty pieces of work: He was Macheath in Brecht's Threepenny Opera, casually organising crime in 21stcentury Soho. Then Baby, the dangerously mixed-up mafia kid in Mojo.

And now? Tartuffe. Molière's 17th-century spiritual conman, at the Aimeida. On Tartuffe: "It's a brilliantly constructed play," Hollander says, "I like play-

ing frightening megalomaniacs. I'm so unfrightening in

Flexible: Hollander transformed into a sweet, cheeky yet vulnerable Celia in Cheek By Jowl's all-male As You Like It. In Peter Gill's Way of the World, he stole the show with a bit part as the flamboyant twit, Witwoud.

nily: The Hollanders are not historically theatrical but have artistic genes: a Czech grandfather was a celebrated authority on Janáček in bohemian Vienna. His sister is Julia Hollander, the ENO's youngest woman director. At Cambridge, Hollander was a zesty Cyrano in Sam Mendes's Marlowe Society production and subsequently joined Mendes's company at Chichester.

The glories of Oxbridge: Hollander is soon to be seen as the cox in *True Blue*, Channel 4's Boat Race movie. "We spent hour after hour being rained on by huge hoses with a wind-chill factor of minus 35 degrees," he says. "It was like the retreat from Moscow, but all good fun."

On acting: "On stage, for a few hours, your life is formalised no longer chaotic. That can be relaxing." On himself: " I'm ambitious," he says, "but quite lazy. On stage I think: This my chance to redeem a completely unimpressive existence.

KATE BASSETT

Class of '54 has aged beautifully

sneering at this de-lightfully absurd but tuneful musical, saying things like "It's so middle-class," I shall cheerfully agree with that and point out how neatly the story spins the heads-Iwin-tails-you-lose coin by both being and mocking its class. The mockery is gentle, but the

THEATHE original cast recording reveals that even in Salad Days 1954 Jane spoke Vaudeville in a terribly,

terribly pure voice, and Timothy was frightfully, frightfully shy and man-"Oh, Jane, will it help if I marry you? Only if it will help." The irony is an essential spice, without which the show could not work.

The characters, of course, are not middle-class at all: Jane's mother is Lady Raeburn, and the roll-call of Timothy's five uncles includes a member of the Cabinet, although goodness knows what Uncle Ambrose, the camp couturier, is doing among them. Kit Hesketh-Harvey's grimaces and wandering hands belong in burlesque, and I'd be sur-

was such a reach-me-down caricature first time round.

The dress salon scene is one of several revue sketches that fill in the gaps in the story of the magic piano. Timothy and Jane, just down from university, take on the job of looking "vehicular instru-

ment" for a month. His keeps family sending him to which

and the Cabinet uncle meanly wants to confiscate the piano. which cues in most of the

Certainly, this is a primitive structure for a show, and when acenes are not enlivened by a song the humour is exposed as equally antique. But these songs - catchy, clever and sweet-hearted are irresistible. Julian Slade's melodies have that rare and blessed quality of proving a single hearing. The lyrics too. In Jane's I Sit in the Sun, as in the duet We Said We Wouldn't Look Back, the simply rhymed, colloquial



Richard Sisson, Nicola Fulliames, Simon Connolly — and magic piano — in the ever-enchanting Salad Days

phrases fit the musical line so easily that words stay in the memory along with tune.

Simon Connolly catches the innocent charm of Timothy very fetchingly, but in Nicola Fulljames, playing Jane in a bright yellow New Look frock and long white gloves, Ned Sherrin's production has

found a heroine capable of subtle touches of comedy and with a voice that is positively

Hesketh-Harvey's other performances, mostly as uncles, are amusing, while his partner Richard cabaret Sisson (aka the Widow), reveals an attractive skill at not-

too-winsome mime as the piano-playing clown, Troppo.

The revolving bandstand at the centre of Patrick Connellan's set solves the problem of bringing speed to the scene changes, but severely restricts the dancing area to the front of the stage. This is unfortunate

in a show where outbursts of

ungovernable dance are crucial to the story. I don't think we can even say that it jokily comments on the 1950s style, although, being in generous mood, that is how I propose to take the shadow thrown by the lamppost on the blue sky.

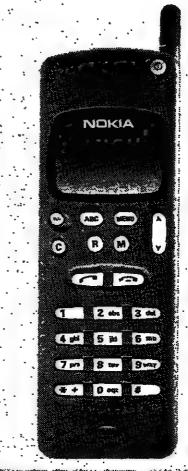
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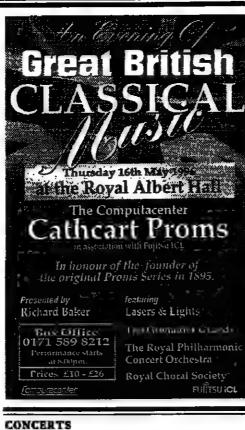


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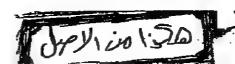
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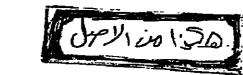
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■ INTERVIEW

Stepping into Henry Fonda's shoes: Kevin Whately on the challenge of Twelve Angry Men



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BASE NOTES

Tim Roth will make his debut as a director this vear filming The War Zone in Devon



■ BASE NOTES

.. while Tom Waits wins a three-year court battle with his own music publishers

Daniel Rosenthal talks to Kevin Whately about his West End stage debut in Twelve Angry Men

A case of following Fonda

uring his five-year absence from the ely has continued to experience what he calls "mind-boggling" small-screen

As family-adoring Sergeant Lewis in Inspector Morse, fiery Dr Jack Kerruish in Peak

Practice, and naive carpenter Neville Hope in 6 It's vital the recent Channel 4 reruns of that the Auf Wiedersehen. Pet, Whately audience has rarely been away from the sees the nation's living rooms for long. race issue Plum parts in three of the most clearly 🤊 successful television series of

the past two decades - not a bad record for a man who graduated from London's Central School of Speech and Drama convinced he "would never be anything other than a stage actor.

The return to theatre - and his West End debut — comes in Reginald Rose's Twelve Angry Men. Whately plays the liberal architect who, on a king hot day in New York in 1954, sets out to persuade 11 fellow jurors that despite apparently conclusive evidence, a lo year-old boy accused of murdering his brutal father may not be guilty.

The offer to join Harold Pinter's production was irresistible. "I couldn't turn down

"Twelve Angry Men also ap-pealed because it's an ensemble piece, not a star vehicle." describes the company, which includes Timothy West and Tim Healy (the builders' leader in Auf Wiederschen), as "a good bunch of clever actors, with no flashy egos"

Rose's enthralling play was written soon after he served as a juror on a manslaughter trial (the defendant was convicted of a lesser charge) and has enjoyed enduring fame through the Oscar-nominated film version, which had Henry Fonda as the architect and

was the first of director Sidney Lumet's numerous cinematic explorations of crime and punishment in New York.

"Don't mention the film" became the Basil Fawlty-like rehearsal motto for Pinter's dozen, but Whately "sneaked another look" when Fonda and company popped up on television shortly before the production began a month-

long run at the Bristol Old Vic.
"It's a great film." he says. "But while the camera's always going in close on Fonda, on stage you get to see all the jurors' reactions at once, which is much more interesting. There's also more humour in our version.



Liberal conscience: Kevin Whately plays the Henry Fonda role in Harold Pinter's production of Twelve Angry Men

probably black or Puerto Rican, but the speeches by the most racist juror were heavily cut in the film. We haven't cut them because it's important that the audience sees the race issue clearly."

Those who know Whately only through television may be surprised by his theatrical pedigree. Born in the North Tyne Valley, the son of a merchant seaman, he abandoned accountancy training in Newcastle to pursue the acting bug which first struck at the age of four with family plays directed by his elder sister. Drama school was followed by several years in rep, and his CV includes John Proctor in The Crucible (twice). Prince Hal, Billy Liar and, most recently, a National Front

agent provocateur at the Bush. The accused boy is obvious- in Coronation Street for six legend," Whately says. ly from an ethnic minority, weeks, his television break-

through came in 1983 thanks to Auf Wiedersehen, Dick Clement's and Ian Frenais's glorious tales of British builders on the make in Germany and Spain, with Whately as the shyest member of an occasionally wild bunch.

Next came the Inspector Morse phenomenon: 29 films in eight years, hundreds of millions of viewers in more than 50 countries. The golden hat-trick, which Whately attributes largely to top-class writing, was completed in 1993, when 14 million watched GP Dr Jack Kerruish saving lives in the first of his three series of Peak Practice.

Adjusting to the fame that accompanies such huge audiences was traumatic and Whately still finds life as "a telly face" strange. "I can't conceive of a million people watching me, never mind hundreds of millions. The

younger actors in Twelve Angry Men see what that popularity is like when people approach me for autographs. I was in their position before I got into television. When I was on tour with Stephen Hancock, who was Ernie Bishop in Coronation Street for years.

he was mobbed everywhere. "I find television work less rewarding than theatre, but it has its own excitement and is obviously much more lucrative. I've done so much of it because with young kids [Kit-ty, now 13, and Kieran, 11], I couldn't afford to keep doing rep for £180 a week.

Whately's presence in so much repeat-friendly drama means that even when, as now, he is taking a break from television, television appears unwilling to take a break from him. "As I walked into the green room for the interval on Twelve Angry Men's first Sat-

No hiding place from an ill wind

CONCERT

Rhineland

PO/Klee

WHEN a German orchestra tours this country and devotes the first half of every concert on the itinerary to Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto, you wonder what it has to hide. Surely an ensemble as venerable as the Rhineland Philharmonic, which has worked with conductors as

distinguished as Wilhelm Furtwängler and Strauss, should be presenting its credentials, asserting its personality and generally displaying its vir-

tuosity

urday night in Bristol, the understudies were watching

Auf Wiedersehen. I was sud-

denly confronted by my, Tim

Healy and the other lads'

naked burns duck-diving into

● Twelve Angry Men opens at the Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SWI (0171-369 1731) on Monday

a Spanish swimming pool."

Cheltenham opening its concerts with Don Juan, say, or Till Eulen-spiegel. Or would that have

been too outrageously bold to It is true that Peter Donohoe playing Rachmaninov is always an attractive prospect which was presumably a maor consideration in the thinking which consigned Bernhard Klee and the Rhineland

Philharmonic to the role of accompanying a British planist for the greater part of ten programmes in ten British concert halls. They could not have known that at Cheltenham Town Hall, the first stop on the tour, the piano would be in such a condition that much of the performance of Rachmaninov's D minor Concerto would be an ear-bruising experience. The integrity of

Donohoe's interpretation, his characteristically wholehearted devotion to the emotional issues and his splendid declaration of authority at the climax of the last movement will surely meet fewer obstacles later in the tour.

As for what the orchestra might have to hide, a woodwind section such as that of the Rhineland Philharmonic

cannot be concealed for very long, even in a Rachmaninov Piano Concerto. After the first-movement cadenza, for example, each of

the flute, oboe and clarinet entries seemed to based on a different assess-ment of standard pitch. By the end of the first movement of Brahms's First Symphony, intonation was so bad that the woodwinds were requested to retune — not in the first place by the conductor but, through him, by a leader who was obviously not very happy about the situation.

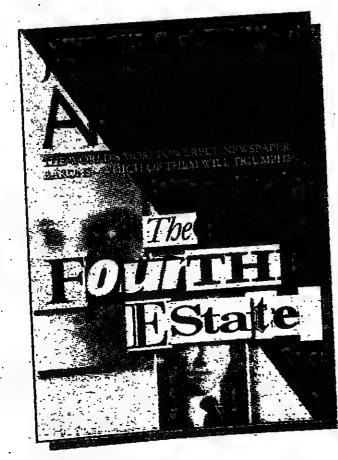
Klee clearly prefers to concentrate on his strings. His reward is a string sound which is robust but, in its imperfect ensemble, unrefined. As we know from his association with the BBC Philharmonic not very long ago. he is a musician with more to

GERALD LARNER

THE SUNDAY TIMES

JEFFREY ARCHER

EXCLUSIVE SERIALISATION OF HIS NEW NOVEL STARTS TOMORROW



Armstrong stared down at the green baize. He had already lost 40,000 francs that evening - but what was 40,000 francs when you had squandered a billion dollars in the past 12 months?

The latest blockbuster from Jeffrey Archer is sure to top the bestseller list. Read it first in The Sunday Times.

SPECIAL BOOK OFFER: The first 500 copies ordered are signed by Jeffrey Archer. Buy The Fourth Estate for £4 off the publisher's price, including post and packing

BASENOTES

TWO of Britain's top composers have been commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra to write cello concertos for Mstislav Rostropovich. The world premiere of Colin Matthews's new concerto will take place at the Barbican on September 17; two weeks later, on October 3, the cellist is scheduled to perform the world premiere of James MacMillan's new con-certo, "composed with the enormous musical and technical strengths of Mstislav Rostropovich in mind",

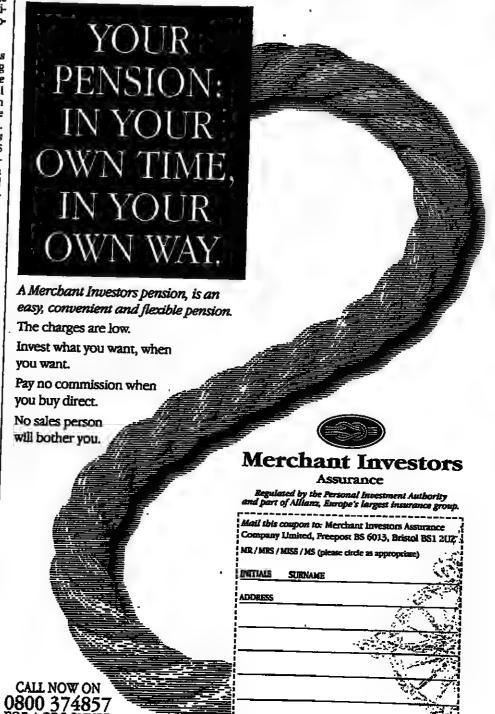
● Tom Walts, who sued his music publishers for allowing the song Heart Attack & Vine to be used in a TV commercial for Levis, has had the decision in his favour upheld by the Californian Court of Appeal. The decision ends three years of litigation, and follows a £2.5 million settlement to the singer-songwriter made after a corn chips manufacturer used a Waits impersonator to promote its product.

THE actor Tim Roth is to make his directorial debut this year, filming Alexander Stuart's much-praised novel about an incestuous fatherdaughter relationship. The War Zone. Filming will take place in Devon, but casting details have yet to be released

 ONE of cinema's foremost historians and critics, David Robinson, has been honoured at the San Francisco Interna-tional Film Festival. Robinson, veteran film critic of The Times and author of many books (including ones about Buster Keaton, Richard Attenborough, George Méliès and Charlie Chaplin), is named as recipient of the Mel Novikoff Award, which hon-ours an individual or institution whose work has enhanced the public's knowledge of film.

• Sam Shepard may be one of America's leading dramatists but he's never had a play on Broadway. Until now, that is. On April 30 Steppenwolf Theatre Company of Chicago will bring to Broadway its acclaimed production of Shepard's Pulitzer Prize-winning Buried Child, first seen in 1978. The director is Gary Sinise, better known these days as Tom Hanks's co-star in both Forrest Gump and





Niall Ferguson shows how, since 1989, history has been going backwards towards the ancien régime, as modernity unravels

an and strategic analyst, Michael Stürmer, speaking off-the-cuff at a small dinner party the other day given for him by Lord Weidenfeld, said: 1989 was a turning point at which history failed to turn."

It may have been the quality of the wine being served, but that phrase — an updating of A.J.P. Taylor's famous one-liner about 1848 - threw a switch in the mind of one of the guests. Not so, I found myself thinking. 1989 was a turning point, all right. The trouble is that history turned 180 degrees and ever since it has been running hackwards.

The idea of history in reverse may seem bizarre - the stuff of science fiction. Yet the more I think about it, the more useful it seems as an insight into the nature of most, if not all, of our present tribulations. Ever since the fall of the Berlin Wall, those who make a living from analysing the immedi-ate past and foretelling the future - the Francis Fukuyamas and Paul Kennedys of this world have been struggling. Now I think I see why. In trying to look ahead

The ghosts of the past return

for trends, they are facing the

In fact, the secret of the future lies behind us; and to see where we are heading, all you have to do is press rewind. But remember: history moves backwards a great deal faster than it moved forward.

Since the collapse of the Soviet

Empire, the historic achievements of not only the 20th century but also the 19th (and in some cases even the ISth) have been unravelling with extraordinary rapidity. For example: probably the most important political products of the modern era were the nation states. In fact, few of them were as homogeneous, ethnically or culturally, as their propagandists liked to claim; and a great many held on to or acquired large empires, the existence of which was at variance with the principle of self-determination. Nevertheless, beginning circa 1650, they emerged, one by one, out of the mish-mash of

dynastic pseudo-empires and petty principalities: first Britain, Russia and France, then the United States, followed in the 19th century by Greece, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Romania and Bulgaria, and in the 20th (after immense bloodshed) Ireland, Poland, Yugo-

slavia and the rest. 1989 appeared to be the culmination of this process: the reunification of Germany and the creation of nation states for the hitherto vassal peoples of Eastern Europe. In reality, it has proved to be the end of the nationalist road, and the nation states have been dissolving with amazing speed ever since. Yugoslavia was the first and most horrendous case: Czechoslovakia went more quietly. At the same time, the Franco-German project to create a European federation has led to a creeping dissolution of the West European states, begin-ning in Italy (now almost "de-unified"). As a result, the endproduct of Maastricht seems likely to look more like the Holy Roman Empire than the Bundesrepublik Europa of Helmut Kohl's dreams. What is more — though it is not generally realised - this process of disintegration is already accelerating in Belgium, in Spain and, of course, in Britain.

For under the impending Lab-our government, history looks like being reversed on a grand scale, with the effective repeal of the 1707 Act of Union and the restoration of the Edinburgh Parliament, as well (it seems reasonable to suppose) as the continuing surreptitious trans-fer of Ulster to the Dublin Republic. This effectively means the demolition of the entire Hanoverian edifice we know as Great Britain. See what I mean?

Nor is this purely a European phenomenon. While Russia recedes to the borders of Muscovy (for the second time this century,

ers of the other ex-superpower seem intent on dismantling the great central government in Washington which sprang up after 1914. The achievements of the Big Government Presidents - Roosevelt, Kennedy, Johnson - seem doomed to be undone as the agenda of American politics is increasingly set by a populist movement such as has not been seen since the 1890s. At the same time, Canada teeters on the brink

eanwhile. a great but closed empire domi-nates the Far East though the possibility cannot be ruled out that when Emperor Deng dies, the empire may break up, so uneven has been the recent process of economic development. And in North Africa and the Middle East, a reviving Islam is undermining the system of nation states constructed in the ruins of

of Quebecois secession.

the Ottoman Empire between the 1820s and the 1920s. (For this reason, Israeli neurosis about the future is not irrational. Though modernity has conferred both blessings and curses on the Jews. the prospect of a return to the 18th century is hardly an enticing one.)

All this means good business for the people who draw and publish maps, you may say, but how does it affect Middle England? Surely we, with our satellite dishes, are destined for more of the same in the 21st century?

Wrong. For the reality is that even our apparently ultra-modern society is well on the way back to the 18th century. When that wartime behemoth, the welfare state, finally collapses under its own weight, a distinctly ancien régime society will stand revealed - from the aristocratic to underclass The only difference is that today, in the absence of capital punishment and transportation the State lacks the

means of disciplining them. As for our politics, there is no As tor our pointes, there is no mistaking the 18th-century quality of new Labour. Lord Irvine's Whigs, led in the Commons by his youthful junior Mr Blair, are now poised to oust Lord Mackay's demoralised Tory ministry and then continue its policies, whatever those may be. On the quangos which run the country. Tory placemen will be replaced by Whig placemen. Meanwhile, the Royal Family falls further and further into disrepute — though instead of the Madness of King George III we must look forward, I fear, to the madness of Charles III.

In Martin Amis's Time's Arrow. the central character dies at the beginning of the novel, and is born at the end. Something similar appears to have been happening to history. As Professor Stürmer was quick to point out, this is bad news for Germany. But, on reflection, I think it may be rather good news for England. After all, what is national decline when it is played backwards?

The author is a fellow of Jesus

the capital

The giant Ferris wheel is a PR

stunt, says Giles Worsley

Pritish Airways did not become the World's Favourite Airline without a certain ingenuity, but nothing could beat the subtle way which it has suggested building the world's largest corporate advertisement in the very heart of London. Five hundred feet high, towering over Big Ben, taller than St Paul's Cathedral, the British Airways Millennium Wheel proposed for the South Bank is portrayed as an altruistic millennium gesture. But, if built, it will undoubtedly be the symbol of London in 2000, when we will not be allowed to forget that it was British Airways that gave it to us.

The airline has moved smoothly in to support a scheme floated last year by the architects David Marks and Julia Barfield. At the time it was roundly condemned by the Royal Fine Art Commission for its visual intrusion on London's skyline. But, supported by the airline for a plane, it has now returned. What makes BA's scheme so ingenious, as its chief executive Bob Ayling acknowledged, is that while the firm is putting up £600,000 of startup capital towards a total cost of £9.5 million, the expected two million visitors a year - at £5 a head for adults and half price for children - should soon recoup the costs. The largest corporate advertisement in the world, symbol of London for the millennium. and possibly free — no wonder

BA is so keen on the concept. The idea of a giant Ferris wheel is harmless and entertaining in itself, although quite why a Ferris wheel should be seen as a futuristic statement is unclear. It is exactly 100 years since the death of the wheel's inventor, the American G.W.G. Ferris. If anything, it suggests the slightly tawdry, run-down Europe of postwar Vienna in Orson Welles's film The Third Man. But such a wheel would only be harmless and entertaining in the right place. That place is not the centre of London.

Little more than Modernist nostalgia lies behind the belief that the South Bank is an appropriate site. This was the home of the 1951 Festival of Britain, that last moment of Modernist innocence, before the harsh realities of postwar development destroyed the illusion that a planner's Utopia was possible. But the South

Bank has moved on. This is not to say that something could not be done to make London more attractive to children, and this is perhaps the best argument for building a Ferris wheel. But the place for giant funfairs is on the outskirts of London. If we want children to find London more exciting, we should make what we have more attractive. The young are attracted by more than funfairs - an interactive science park and more children's concerts, for instance, would suit the South Bank better.

Lambeth council is unlikely to look dispassionately on the scheme, but this is an issue that stretches far beyond its boundaries. For all the talk of delicate materials, this is a massive structure which will have a crushing effect on Whitehall and the Royal Parks and a profound and unexpected impact much further away. Should Lambeth grant planning permission, it should certainly be called in by the Secretary of State for the Environment, even if the wheel is only intended to stand for five years. And that is a statement that must be treated with caution. History suggests that inertia has a strange way of ensuring that temporary buildings never come down. If BA is sincere in its

altruistic desire to help to regenerate a run-down area, it should put its wheel where it would really make a difference. Cardiff Docks, where it could give stunning views across the Severn to England and northward to the Welsh Mountains, is an obvious choice. There the visitors and attention the wheel would draw could have a dramatic effect on an area struggling to revitalise itself. An obvious alternative is the Greenwich Peninsula, intended home of Millennium Festival. to which the wheel would make a superb focus. But, torn from its prime position in the heart London, this 500ft-high advertisement might not have quite the same attraction to BA's publicity team.

The author is editor of Perspectives on Architecture.

Don't dwarf Kicking accidents into touch

When a referee can be sued, it is a sad day for

rugby — and for liberty

y raggle-taggle army is in retreat. We stumble blind across the battlefield, beaten at every turn. Yesterday the High Court dealt us another blow and left us reeling. We are the army of Most Reasonable People. We cut a sorry sight.

Most reasonable people will have been left gasping by yesterday's decision by Mr Justice Curtis in the case of the ruphy reference. An honest

case of the rugby referee. An honest man giving up an afternoon to help boys to enjoy their sport is found guilty of culpable negligence for not stopping a scrum collapsing. He is now liable for El million in damages. Most reasonable people will throw up their hands in despair. Yet most reasonable people are not a consideration here. The law has found its way into one more area of community life. Yet another activity must surround itself with defensive insurance, legal advice and expense. Yet another band of selfless volunteers will say "to hell with it and stay at home.

At the bottom of my draw folder marked Legal Lunacies. It is bulging with material. A parent sues a theatre because Peter Pan scared her child. A policeman sues for a blister caused while using a CS gas can. Two women sue their boss for telling sexist jokes in his annual speech. A dancer sues a floor polisher for making the ballroom too slippery. An armed robber sues for pain and distress involved in his arrest. Seventy pupils sue their school because they did not do better in exams.

The British are now suing with the same abandon as Americans. My transatlantic collection includes people suing for sliced golf shots, for fallen buttocks, for over-hot McDonald's coffee, for the shock of seeing Mickey Mouse in daytime clothes and for not finding salvation in a Baptist church. The Western bourgeoisie no longer sues merely for financial loss. It sues for trauma. distress, embarrassment. It sues to be made happy or for a million pounds. As for accidents, they no longer exist. The world has given up on Acts of God. The Almighty no longer moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform. One wrong move and He goes down for culpable negligence.

To lawyers. I am sure that yesterday's judgment in the case of the injured rugby player will seem a fine one. If we play a game under rules intended to protect our safety and submit to the decisions of a referee. we expect him to do the job. If we break our necks because, in our view, he failed to blow the whistle in time,



Rugby is an unpredictable and sometimes violent game — should players who risk life and limb be able to sue referees for damages?

we are entitled to complain. In 1991, 17-year-old Ben Smolon broke his neck playing for Sutton Coldfield Colts. He maintains that the dangerous practice of players collapsing the scrum had got of hand. The referee, Michael Nolan, should have stopped sooner than he did.

Most reasonable people would react by feeling deeply sorry for Mr Smolon. Like hundreds of victims of this exhibarating but absurdly violent game, he is confined to a wheelchair. The Twickenham touchline at big matches has a phalanx of wheelchairs, none of whose occupants has ever sued the game they love (and who must now be cursing their solicitors). Perhaps the Staffordshire referee might have blown his whistle a second earlier. Perhaps a complaint might have been made to the Society of Rugby Football Referees. Perhaps Mr Nolan should not be allowed to referee any more games, or at least should undergo retraining. But a law suit? A High Court judgment? A million pounds demanded?

The dwindling band of reasonable people might also wonder why Mr Smolon's parents did not take out injury insurance, given the known risks of rugby. According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, this is by far the most dangerous sport for serious injury. (Next come skating, riding and skiing.) Put your son in the front row

of a Staffordshire scrum and you have an accident waiting to happen. If money was going to be so important to Mr Smolon in the event of injury, cover would have been shrewd as well as wise. Why take a gamble on an opponent's insurer not having a million pounds to spare, when you can insure for a million

pounds yourself? I find all this obscene. The courts have now thrown open their doors to players in any game to treat a referee's

decision as vulnerable to judicial review. The Lord Chief Justice should be as outspoken with a judge who encourages such outrageous litigation as he is with the Home Secretary.

These suits should not just be thrown out of court, they should be binned on receipt. Like the current craze for judicial review of public administration, negligence litigation may have its roots in legitimate grievance, but it risks polluting public and private life. Such litigation does not make for better professional judgment, it merely makes for ultra-cautious judgment and escalating cost. Every doctor. architect, accountant, administrator, minister even, now sits enveloped in advice and fees. This in turn induces

their clients to see them as a soft touch should accident befall.

I accept that a principle of culpable negligence must be upheld if people are to be protected against risks they cannot reasonably predict. The civil courts must be available to hold purveyors of goods and services accountable, especially where the service is a professional one based on trust in another's judgment. We seek redress for professional errors not

just because they are often catastrophic — a lost leg, a collapsed house, a bankrupt business but to deter and protect others. Yet there must be

a boundary between such redress and dumping all responsibility for risk onto

others, marked by the single word. trust. Time was when we accepted that a professional person sought to do his or her best. If something went wrong, pending the hearing of a disciplinary tribunal, we treated it as bad luck. Accidents happen even in the best-regulated professions. In games, the essence of sportsmanship is to treat injury as accident. If equipment or supervision is dangerous, that is the risk we take, Sometimes the luck runs against us. A common thread through my file

of lunacy is a yearning to deny bad luck. People long to find a reason for their misfortune that can be pinned on somebody else. And always there is the excuse that nobody is really hurt by litigation because an insurer (or government) will pick up the tab. Against this onward march of the

suing classes, my shrinking platoon of reasonables can only fall back on philosophy. They hold to their belief that accidents do happen, that life is full of perils. Some of these perils are caused by human beings operating at less than 100 per cent efficiency. What Americans call tort abuse may make us more careful. But this is not an undiluted good. It distorts professional judgment and increases insurance costs. We take the Acts of God, redistribute them and add 10 or 20 6. 30 per cent.

There must be a limit to this redistribution. Individuals should be left with some responsibility for their actions, for the risks involved in the business of living. The principle of caveat emptor is a useful discipline. It balances caution against risk and pins responsibility for reaching that balance firmly on personal choice. Ask a judge to find the balance, topple the goddess Luck and set in her place the ambulance chaser and the insurance broker and you diminish individual responsibility and personal freedom. You make a safer world, but a meaner one.

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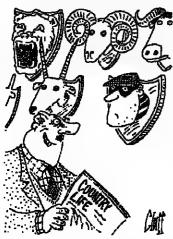
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Regal fidget

daunting enough task for an artist of age and maturity, but for Antony Williams. 31. it has proved palettesnappingly hard.

It is not so much that Williams lacks the painterly skills. The problem is the Queen. She is both



"Cancelled our holidays at the last minute, old chap"

last year to paint an eminent person. Surprised to find his subject would be the Queen on her 70th birthday, he gulped and packed his brushes for a trip to the Palace. After the agreed six sittings, however. Williams has had to ask for more to make up for time lost

through regal distractions. First, he found that when he struggled up to London, the sittings would be arrnaged in different rooms with different light. Then there was the Queen. "She was very talkative, very animated," said Williams. "She initiated any conversation and I tended to react. But it was quite hard to keep up with her. She is incredibly well informed and it was a problem trying to

concentrate on the painting."
Worse was her fidgeting." I had to ask her private secretary for permission to ask her to sit still. He said yes, I was the boss, so I asked her very courteously. It didn't have much effect. She sat still for about two minutes and then something

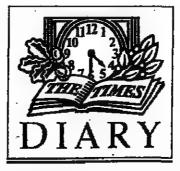
would catch her eye - Anne in the garden or something."

Thankfully, Williams is now on the home straight and will have his painting ready for its unveiling at the Mall Galleries next month.

• For masculine charms. look no further than Boris Yeltsin. Though he seemed to be spinning a little out of control last year, pinching women's bottoms and dancing on an official walkabout with Helmut Kohl, he now has his rampant virility back in its kennel. On a recent state visit to Norway, on the way into an official lunch, he grabbed the arms of Queen Sonja. dressed in red, and Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland. in white. and with a hugh grin said in Russian: "Raspberries and cream."

Open house

BISHOPSTHORPE Palace, the home of the Archbishop of York, is to be opened to the public for the first time. The current occupant. Dr David Hope, a bachelor, says he wants as many people as possible to share the beauty of his new digs. which he clearly finds slightly over-



whelming after the poky flat he had as Bishop of London.

The doors of the palace will be thrown open to pre-booked parties of between 10 and 50 at £2 a head. but not to individuals. The funds raised will go towards the upkeep of the building and nine acres of grounds, which feature a chapel dating back to 1241 and a Great Hall which was rebuilt in the 17th century. "It seemed a pity to keep it for one's own use." says Dr Hope. "I wanted to share it with other

 Vegetable growers are employing unusual methods to produce a good crop. Peter Perrson. a New Zealander who grows tomatoes hydroponically, uses discarded bras

as a source of cheap and effective support for his produce. He has even undertaken a colour evaluation and says that three days in a white bra followed by two days in a black one ripens the crop perfectly.

Short shrift

BEFORE delivering yesterday's John Smith Memorial Lecture, the Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown used his weekly column in Glasgow's Daily Record to fire a shot at the heroic Clare Short, one of the last members of the Shadow Cabinet to hold firm against Tony Blair's beige revolution.

Brown said he would not use the lecture to announce any tax policy because "Clare Short has a prior engagement and won't be in the audience. I'd want her to be one of the first to know." In view of the venom spat by Labour's high command at Miss Short for her statement last week that she could pay a bit more tax. Brown may not be joking.

Scene stealers

Jey 100 150

WHEN the Israeli missiles started to rain on southern Lebanon re-

cently, a BBC television crew found themselves in Beirut having to produce a report on the supposed rising panic.

Finding nothing but calm on the streets, they climbed up to the roof of the Commodore hotel to film some general skyline shots. Arriving on the roof in their flak-jackets they found two British Mediterranean air hostesses sunbathing in their bikinis.

In the spirit of William Boot in Evelyn Waugh's Scoop, the director asked: "Would you mind moving? Having you two in the picture might ruin the credibility of our city in crisis story."

All about Yves

FIRST he supplied frocks to the Duchess of York for her recent white-wash spread in Hello! magazine. New Yves Saint Laurent has stepped one rung further down the celebrity scale to dress the football agent and incorrigible self-publicist. Eric Hall.

They can spot a monster clothes horse when they see one," said Hall, a funny little fellow with a taste for fat eigars, from deep inside an aquamarine dinner-jacket.



"Eric has been signed to wear our clothes," explained a spokesman for the fashion house, which back in France dresses rather more soignée types such as Catherine Deneuve.

He may not be the person you think of first when it comes to sartorial elegance, but our clothes appeal to a wide range of



LONG TO REIGN

The nation is blessed by a resilient monarch, and monarchy

Tomorrow the Queen will be 70 and the nation will have rich cause to celebrate. In her 44 years as head of state she has performed with a grace and poise that have disarmed criticism. Anniversaries are occasions for reflection, and on this birthday there is good reason for the nation to take the longer view which the Queen, by virtue of experience and office, has always held.

Nearly 100 years ago, in 1897, Queen Victoria, ruler of one quarter of the globe, celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. In her own lifetime criticism of the monarchy had grown, but she, and the Crown, outlived the critics. Since then Britain has endured decline. The nation has been overtaken economically, its rulers have seen authority seep away, its Empire has dwindled to a cluster of rocky outcrops. Throughout the social and economic upheaval this country has, with the sad exception of Northern Ireland, enjoyed civil peace and stability. The institution that has guaranteed that is the monarchy.

Britain is

Criticised

Over Pil

)care

There is a strong mood today that the monarchy's survival depends on the Queen's. It is argued that respect for her personal dignity and gratitude for her obvious sense of duty is the only reason not to move to a more "modern" constitutional settlement, specifically a republic. Republicans, from the Marxist Tom Nairn to the free market radical Stephen Haseler, have argued that the monarchy mires Britain in nostalgia and inhibits necessary change. Republicans sense the widespread and justified distaste for the behaviour of some younger members of the Royal Family and exploit it to argue that when generations

change, so should systems. The tribute that even the most determined republicans pay the Queen is no more than her due. Although criticised for complicity with Macmillan in elevating Home to the premiership in 1963 and, more recently, for her readiness to intervene to keep Canada together, she has been more sure-footed than her ministers. On both, indeed on all politically sensitive occasions of which we know, the Queen has underwritten rather than undermined the acts of elected politicians — as a figure herself above politics. No elected President could command the same authority. The Queen's wisdom and restraint have enhanced the reputation of monarchy but the health of the constitution depends on the survival of the institution. not the individual.

There are qualities specific to the monarchy, independent of the personality of the King or Queen, for which the nation might give thanks this weekend. The Queen, in the words of Vernon Bogdanor, "interprets the nation to itself". The monarch is an emotionally satisfying focus for national loyalty. Far from impeding change, the monarchy and our settled constitutional order have made change easier to bear. Reforming Governments of the Left from Gladstone to Wilson have recognised how valuable stability at the top has been in helping to improve the lot of those at the bottom.

Across the globe the evidence suggests that constitutional continuity helps a people to cope with modernity's strains. The pain of losing an empire was assuaged in Britain by the Queen but it destroyed the French Fourth Republic. A monarch helped Spain to democratise itself. No advanced nation has a monarchy quite as traditional as Japan's, yet few have been as economically successful with such a scarcity of natural resources.

The nation should forget the Royal Family's recent sadnesses and focus on how well monarchy has served this country through a time of traumas. Over the next 12 months dealing with change will be the matter of fierce political competition. That our head of state should be above the partisan struggle is a blessing. There may be no better birthday wish for Her Majesty than that that she, and the Throne she graces, should continue to enjoy long life.

AMBER ALERT

Britain grapples with new Chinese threats to Hong Kong

Malcolm Rifland meets his Chinese counterpart. Qian Qichen, today in The Hague at a critical juncture for Hong Kong. In the past few weeks, China has done everything possible to undermine the legitimacy of the Hong Kong Government and its democrati- do not co-operate with it, they will be cally elected legislature. Its plans to create a dismissed when China takes over. oroyisional k existing elected Legislative Council are contrary to the spirit and the letter of the 1984 Sino-British Declaration and have no legal basis in China's own Basic Law for post-1997 Hong Kong John Major's promise, when he was in Hong Kong last month, that if "there were any suggestion of a breach of the Joint Declaration, we would mobilise the international community and pursue every legal or other avenue open to us" is being put to an almost immediate test.

Mr Rifkind has condemned these decisions but in terms designed to stop just short of declaring China in breach of the 1984 treaty. Chris Patten, Hong Kong's Governor, points out that the provisional legislature has no "constitutional position". but adds carefully that it is up to China to justify its legality. The British approach is to treat this as a political rather than a legal problem, in the hope that Britain can convince China that if it goes ahead, it will inflict huge damage on its international standing as a law-abiding power, as well as

undermining the prosperity of Hong Kong. This tactic would have sounded more plausible a few months ago than it does now: China has demonstrated, in the Taiwan Strait, its readiness to put "sovereignty" far ahead of such material considerations. In addition, the Hong Kong preparatory committee dealing with the transition, chaired by Mr Qian himself, has now blocked this avenue of escape by announcing that it intends to install the provisional legislature even before the handover. China's deliberate aim is to create two rival centres of power. Its officials have told civil servants that if they

Mr Patten has rightly refused to undermine the legally constituted legislature by according this body any form of recognition. But even if he does not, China's action would inescapably be in breach of the article of the Joint Declaration which binds China to cooperate with Britain as the sole governing authority prior to July 1, 1997. If Mr Rifkind does not say so firmly, and outline the legal steps which Britain would be compelled to take, the Chinese will treat Mr Major's pledge as mere howling in the wind.

The legality of the provisional legislature is being challenged not only by Hong Kong's democrats but by eminent lawyers whom China consulted when it was drafting the Basic Law and even by many of Peking's normally unquestioning supporters. Britain has a duty to be at least as robust as those who will live under Chinese sovereignty after June, 1997. Confidence in Hong Kong is weakening even in the hitherto unflurried business community. International concern is mounting; Merrill Lynch this week issued an "amber alert" on Hong Kong stocks. pointing to the "growing risk of politically induced fallout". China has shown itselfimmune to political persuasion, but sensitive to charges that it is failing to abide by its legal undertakings. Politically, this is the right time for Britain to make its stand on legal principle. Legally, now that China has made its intentions plain, Britain can only weaken its case by delaying its challenge.

BENEFIT TRANSFER

Labour proposes a better way of encouraging children to learn

Pew things are more expensive in life than children. Feeding, clothing and, for some, educating the offspring takes a huge chunk out of family income. That is why, in almost every country, the tax system recognises the extra cost of raising children.

In Britain, what was once a child tax allowance was transformed in 1979 to a child benefit. The big advantage is that the money goes straight to the mother and is more likely to be spent on what it was intended to finance. The disadvantage, however, is that child benefit now looks like a State handout, part of the social security system, whereas in fact it represents a handing back of what used not to be taken away.

This is the best argument against turning what is now a universal benefit into a means-tested one. The cost of bringing up children should be recognised in all families. But after the age of 16, child benefit ceases to be universal and is paid only to the mothers of children who are still in full-time education. It is this money - a substantial E700 million - that Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, wants to see differently targeted.

At the moment, children who stay at school after the age of 16 are likely already to have come from more prosperous families. Mr Brown last night drew out some unsettling statistics. For instance, 80 per cent of the children of unskilled men leave school at 16, most with no qualifications at all. Three quarters of them receive no further

training or education. It is clear, therefore. that the extension of child benefits beyond 16 years is not serving the purpose for which it was intended — encouraging poorer child-ren to stay at school. Rather it is essentially giving tax revenues back to the middle class from whom they were collected - an outcome which Labour understandably regards with less approval than the Tories.

Mr Brown's proposal is that the £700 million saved by scrapping these child benefits should instead be spent on supporting those 16 to 18-year-olds who would benefit from full-time education but could not otherwise afford it. This would not just be socially desirable, it could also make economic sense in a world of shrinking demand for unskilled school-leavers. The question, however, is whether giving state handouts directly to young people would be the best way of improving their educational chances and recycling the money Mr Brown has quite reasonably decided to take from the middle class.

The details of the new education allowances, which remain scanty, will therefore be all-important if Labour's proposals are to make a truly convincing case. Nevertheless. this scheme seems to represent the kind of sensible and imaginative redirection of existing resources that Labour claims will be its hallmark in Government. Mr Brown would do well to continue thinking along these lines.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Issues at the heart Macmillan and the 1963 succession of Labour policy

From Labour's Chief Whip

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's six articles on Labour (April 13-19) have been chal-lenging and interesting and will have genuinely helped your readers to a better understanding of new Labour. I do not think the headline in his final piece. "Blair will win - and fail", accurately sums up his own conclusion. Mr Kaletsky is saying that Labour is a good bet in every sense and there are many who agree with him. Your leader today, "Looking-glass

Labour", says that readers will be surprised to know how much policy has actually been made by the Labour Party, but then argues that Tony Blair is keeping his party, as well as the public, in the dark. You cannot have it both ways.

On the minimum wage you argue that we should posit its maximum level. That would destroy the whole point of our policy, which is to consult with all sides of industry when in government, when the economic circumstances are clear.

On tax you argue that silence on tax will lead to further charges of a hidden agenda. Such charges will be baseless. We have said that we have no plans to raise taxes and that if we have proposals they will be disclosed before the election.

Yours sincerely, DONALD DEWAR, Chief Whip, Labour Party, House of Commons. April 19.

From the Chairman of the BMA

Sir. I was very interested to read Anatole Kaletsky's comment that the Government's health experiment has failed either in restoring public confidence or in reducing costs ("Pensions made to measure", April 17).

That such a respected commentator should reach such a conclusion is in marked contrast with statements made by the Secretary of State for Health on the fifth anniversary of the NHS "reforms" that the changes have been accepted as a permanent part of the landscape. I believe that to his credit Mr Dorrell is now tacitly acknowledging there are problems and is beginning to address them. But the Government as a whole is still reluctant to acknowledge the extent of the impending crisis.

At the BMA we have no doubt that the "reforms" must be reformed because of the inherent flaws in the system introduced five years ago. It seems to me that there is widespread alarm in the NHS, both among patients and among those who care for them, about the state of the service. Successive opinion polls support this

It surprises me that those commentating on successive by-election results sometimes ignore this fact.

Yours faithfully, A. W. MACARA, Chairman of Council. British Medical Association. Tavistock Square, WCI.

From Mr J. W. ff. Young

Sir, For many of us the dreaded question is not "What will Labour do?" (Kaletsky's Labour, April 13) but "Who is going to pay the bill?"

Yours faithfully. J. W. ff. YOUNG, 36 Jessel House, Judd Street, WC1. April 19.

Hosepipe charges

From Mr G. J. Heyes

Sir, The statutory provision for reducing water charges in Section 76(4) of the Water Industry Act 1991, referred to by Mr P. G. Scott in his letter of April 15, applies only in cases where a water undertaker makes charges for the use of a hosepipe or similar apparatus and a hosepipe or sprinkler ban restricts non-domestic supplies for watering gardens or washing cars.

Many companies, such as this one, do not make separate charges for use of hosepipes or sprinkers, and in such situations no reduction or adjustments arise.

Yours sincerely, GRAHAM J. HEYES (Company Secretary and Solicitor). Southern Water Services, Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing, West Sussex. April 17.

Opposition in Kenya

From Mr Kenneth Matiba

Sir, Sam Kiley's report, "Kenyan opposition self-destructs in violent clashes" (April 4), is riddled with gross inaccuracies. Biased reporting and unwarranted attacks against opposition politicians in the media are unfortunately all too common in Kenya, a country governed by an autocratic ruler who displays a flagrant disregard for freedom of the press. I would expect more reflective coverage from the UK press.

I would challenge Kiley's piece on two counts. Firstly, I do not support the expulsion of "whites and Asians". from Kenya. It is Daniel arap Moi, the President of Kenya, who has carried out a systematic policy of ethnic cleansing in our country through provoked tribal clashes and his divide-

who resigned rather than serve under

From Mr Vernon Bogdanor

Sir, In my judgment, Lord Home succeeded to the premiership in 1963 not through a "plot" on the part of Harold Macmillan (report, April 15) but as the favoured candidate of the Conservative Party. The Queen, therefore, did not "block Butler"; nor did her decision to appoint Home "damage the

In June 1963, four months before Harold Macmillan's resignation, the executive of the 1922 Committee told Butler that he would not be the fa-vourite for the succession. Butler's papers in Trinity College, Cambridge, confirm this message, which was reit-erated by the chairman of the 1922 Committee, Major John Morrison, in July 1963. At the same time Major Morrison told Home that, as he could now disclaim his title, he might well be a candidate for the leadership.

Since Macmillan was unable to foist his first choice for the succession. Lord Hailsham, upon the Conservative Party it is highly unlikely that a plot to impose Lord Home would have succeeded had Home not been favoured by the party.

Although Macmillan could not formally advise the Queen whom to appoint as his successor the memorandum which he presented to her apparently showed that, taking into account the views of the Cabinet, the parliamentary party in both Houses and the party in the country, Lord Home was the first choice.

It is implausible to believe that those senior members of the party who had taken soundings would have

Home, admitted that the memorandum submitted by Macmillan was so conclusive that "it was unthinkable even to consider asking for a second opinion". But in any case it was not for the

allowed their views to be misrepre

sented by Macmillan. Iain Macleod.

Queen, by seeking such a second opinion, to appear to intervene in the internal affairs of the Conservative Party. If a preponderant element in the party wanted some candidate other than Home it was their responsibility to make their views known in unambiguous fashion. It was for the politicians, not for the Queen, to sort out the internal problems of the Conservative

It is time, then, to scotch once and for all two myths - first, that Lord Home was imposed by Harold Macmillan on an unwilling Conservative Party, and second, that the Queen colluded in some way with Macmillan's

The particular difficulty which occurred in 1963 will not, of course, occur again, since the Conservatives have used an electoral procedure to choose their leader since 1965. Even so, the 1963 crisis casts valuable light on how the Sovereign might carry out her responsibilities in the event of a hung Parliament.

Yours sincerely, VERNON BOGDANOR (Reader in Government), Brasenose College, Oxford.

Duty of Israel to protect its citizens

From the Director of the Britain Israel Public Affairs Centre

Sir. Sir Anthony Parsons et al (letter, April 18) engage in a circular argu-ment when they suggest that Israel's maintenance of a security zone in South Lebanon is the cause of Hezbollah's rocket attacks on Israel's northern towns. Israelis argue - with greater justification, I believe - that they are compelled to maintain a buffer in order to protect their civilian

The facts of the matter are simple and accessible: so far, the Lebanese central Government has proved unwilling or unable to deploy its army in the south and ensure security along its Dorder with Israel. II has also conspicuously declined to disarm the military wing of Hezbollah, an Iranian proxy which is pledged to the destruction of

the State of Israel. Israel has repeatedly stated that it has no territorial claims on Lebanon and, indeed, established the security zone as a cordon sanitaire in response

to years of cross-border incursions

which posed a constant threat to its civilian population in the north.

There is an unambiguous responsibility on the Government of Lebanon to control the use of force that is launched from its territory against a neighbouring sovereign state.

In the absence of that, the Government of Israel has an unequivocal duty to take the steps it deems necessary to protect its civilian population from the violent acts of an apparently uncontrolled terrorist group which operates from across its The tragic deaths of Lebanese civil-

ians on Thursday underscore the urgent need to secure the Israeli-Lebanese border and prevent Hezbollah from cynically and cruelly using Lebanese civilians as human shields when firing their Katyusha rockets at Israeli civilians.

HELEN DAVIS, Director, Britain Israel Public Affairs Centre, 21-22 Great Sutton Street, ECI. April 19.

Libraries at risk

From Mr Patrick M. Forman

Sir, Your correspondents who seek to save Great Smith Street library from closure (letter, April 17) may or may not know that when a similar fate hung over London's Belsize library in 1991 its readers sought a judicial review of Camden Council's decision to close it. They were granted leave for a hearing in the High Court, whereupon the council revoked its decision and the library remained open.

Cambridge's Mill Road library is one of four libraries recently closed by the county, following years of attrition of the kind described by your correspondents. This listed building has now been boarded up in its centenary year, despite the words "Free Library" built in brick into its handsome facade.

To assuage widespread protests by its users, the county and city authorities have been driven to suggest various milk-and-water community uses for the building. Friends of the lib rary, with the precedent of Camden in mind, are nonetheless campaigning to reinstate its original purpose in full.

As your correspondents aptly demonstrate, libraries can no longer safely be left in the hands of local authorities who show themselves blind to their cultural, social and educational value. Central Government must indeed now take a hand in preserving these foundations of a civilised soci-

Yours faithfully, April 18.

PATRICK FORMAN, 25 Devonshire Road, Cambridge.

and-rule strategy. What I have done, and will continue to do, is to attack corruption at the highest levels in gov-ernment and call for dishonest and

corrupt foreigners to be expelled from Kiley also claims that I have developed "a penchant for ... outrageous statements". If it is outrageous to call

for a national constitution conference to seek reforms which guarantee the independence of the judiciary, the press and Parliament and provide the necessary checks and balances on the

Weekend Money letters, page 36

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Steam heat

From Dr Malcolm McCoubrie

Sir, In your leading article of April 16, occasioned by the identification of Henry VIII's Turkish bath at Whitehall Palace, you rightly distinguish between the spiritual and sybaritic aspects of hot-water bathing. You might also have mentioned another: the supposed healing effects of dissolved inorganic salts.

A good number of Henry VIII's subjects thought it worth their while to visit Bath; one wonders if his advisers were aware of the growing popularity of the many London mineral springs and were persuaded by his physicians to place his Whitehall bath away from the springs.

Yours faithfully, MALCOLM McCOUBRIE St George's Hospital Medical School, Department of Primary Care, Tooting, SW17. April 17.

Spirit and substance From the Chaplain of

Fitzwilliam College

Sir. Mr John Pearman suggests (letter. April 17) that "Most present-day youngsters are influenced more by spiritually-minded human beings engaged in the real world than by priests. For which epithet, pray, do priests not qualify?

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL LLOYD, Chaplain. Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. April 17.

power of the President, then yes, I am outrageous.

If it is outrageous to work for the es-tablishment of a genuine multi-party democracy in Kenya, built on the support of the people, then yes, I am outrageous. If it is outrageous to want to see an uncensored and independent press in Kenya, in stark contrast to the biased and misinformed reporting that exists today, then yes, I am outra-

I will continue to make such "outrageous" statements until we see real political reform in Kenya founded on genuine participatory democracy.

Yours sincerely. KENNETH MATIBA (Chairman, Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Asili), PO Box 48647. Nairobi, Kenya. April 12.

Destruction of art a legacy lost

From Mr Graham Chainey Sir. Both Mr Smallwood and Dr Dunn (letters, April 16) attribute the destruction of English art, which they seek to minimise or justify, to the Reformation. However, in one important area at least, stained glass, the main "holocaust of destruction", occurred a century later.

Canterbury's glass was shattered in 1642 by a mob led by a fanatical parson who himself climbed the city ladder to smash windows with a pike. Most of the glass at Worcester was destroyed by the Earl of Essex's troops the same year. Most of the churches at Suffolk and Cambridgeshire were despoiled by the notorious iconoclast

William Dowsing in 1642-44. Peterborough's magnificent glass was destroyed by Puritan soldiers under Cromwell in 1643, including a famed sequence of windows in the cloister showing Old Testament scenes on one side. New Testament on another, the Church founders on a third, and all the Kings of England on the fourth. Cromwell himself, spotting a tiny crucifix overlooked in a high window, personally fetched a ladder and destroyed it.

In the same year, at Winchester, "those windows which they could not reach with their swords and muskets they brake to pieces by throwing at them the bones of kings, queens, bishops, confessors and saints" which they had disinterred; at Norwich Cathe dral "Lord, what work was here! What clattering of glasses." The 15thcentury windows of St Peter Mancroft, Norwich, were detonated in

The Renaissance windows of Henry VII's Chapel, Westminster, and the glass in the Hampton Court chapel were replaced by plain glass in 1644-45. Even at York in 1644 the Roundheads deliberately fired on the Minster so that cannonhalls crashed through the windows and "bounced about from pillar to pillar"; while during the siege of Lichfield in 1646 "two thousand shot of great ordnance and fifteen hundred grenadoes" hit the cathedral, destroying the glass.

In this way perhaps the greatest legacy of English medieval art was largely consigned to oblivion, much of it wantonly, contrary to orders, and with the slenderest of ideological justi-

GRAHAM CHAINEY. 35 The Albemarie, April lô.

From Mr Neil Sydney

Yours faithfully,

Sir, The mindless iconoclasts portrayed by Richard Cork in "The Resurrection" (Magazine, April 6) were not, 1 suggest, motivated by a desire to destroy art. Rather they saw it, correctly, as idolatry.

The people, common and noble, bowed down to and gave gifts to the statues that filled their churches. The reforming zeal of the iconoclasts was directed by the Bible, which states not only "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image" but more importantly "Thou shalt not bow down thyself before them, nor serve them". The Protestants remembered the Golden Calf, and the Lord's vengeance, and sought to do right by what they believed was God's Word.

In those days, statues were not made for the appreciation of art critics, but were part of the everyday lives which the reformers of the day regarded as superstitious.

Yours faithfully. NEIL SYDNEY. 50 Hillside Gardens, Barnet, Hertfordshire. April 18.

Still on the rails

From the Director of Public Affairs. British Railways Board

Sir. The BR "double arrow" logo is not disappearing from stations and tickets as your report of April 15, "Rush for the BR logo now departing", sug-Ownership of the logo is to be trans-

ferred to the Secretary of State for Transport, who already uses it as a prescribed traffic sign. It is to be available under licence for use by all railway businesses. Essentially it will be used to denote "railways" generally — for example,

showing on maps as well as traffic signs where stations are. The licence will be non-exclusive and rovalty-free. At the same time.

British Rail will be allowed to continue to use it as its corporate logo for at least five years. Yours faithfully.

J. D. A. EVANS. Director of Public Affairs, British Railways Board. Euston House, 24 Eversholt Street, NW).

Unexpected drawback

From Mr Richard Meacock Sir, I really must protest that since

South West Trains have been privatised my daily 9.40am to Richmond has been on time. For 30 years this was eight minutes

late; the result is many miss it. Yours sincerely. RICHARD MEACOCK,

Ivy Cottage, Staines Road, Wraysbury, Buckinghamshire.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE April 19: The Duke of Edinburgh, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, this evening attended a Dinner held to honour those who fought in Bomber Command in 1939-45 at the Officers' Mess, Strike Command, Royal Air Force High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE April 19: The Prince Edward, Trustee and Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this morning attended a Golf Tournament in support of the Award at the Sun Pia Golf Club. Tokushima, and later presented the prizes.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE April 19: The Princess Royal. President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this morning visited Strath-

Dinner

Royal engagements Old (pswichian Club TODAY: The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Gloucestershire Rugby Foot-ball Union, will attend the final of the county championship at Twickenham at 12.40. The Duchess of Kent will attend the Yehudi Menuhin 80th birthday

oncert at the Albert Hall at 6.55. TOMORROW: The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the National Playing Fields

Association, will attend a charity cricket match at Wormsley, High Wycombe, at noon. The Princess Royal, as President of BAFTA, will attend the BAFTA awards at the Theatre Royal.

Drury Lane, at 5.15 and will attend

The Duke of Kent, as president will take the salute at the The Queen's Scout parade at Windsor Castle at i.55.

a dinner at Grosvenor House

Eltham College

The summer term commences on April 22 and ends on July 12. The Eltham College Community Or-chestra and Choral Society concert will take place on April 25 at 7.30pm in the Blackheath Concert Halls. The new Eric Liddell Sports Centre will be opened by Mr Sebastian Coe on June 26, at 4.30pm, and the Old Elthamians Summer Reunion is to be held on July 6. Mr John Monks will be Guest of Honour as Speech Day on July 9.

Mrs Caroline Jane Lloyd to be a full-time Immigration Adjudicator, des-ignated a special adjudicator. Mr Henry Hodge to be a member of the Legal Aid Board for three years from May I. Mr Hodge will serve as deputy chairman.

Royal Society of St George

speaker at a patronal celebration

luncheon of the Sussex branch o the Royal Society of St George held

yesterday at Lancing College. Squadron Leader Jack Dixon pre-

Royal Aeronautical Society Sir Donald Spiers. President of the

Royal Aeronautical Society, was

the host at a presidential luncheor

held yesterday at 4 Hamilton Place. Air Chief Marshal Sir

Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by

Alderman and Sheriff Sir Peter

Levene, was present at a luncheon

of Commerce (UK) held yesterday

at the Mansion House. Sir Peter

Gadsden, president, and Mr Michael Whalley, chairman, re-

ceived the guests. Sir John Egan

was the guest of honour and

principal speaker. The Agent Gen-

Staff, was among those present.

Australian British Chamber

of Commerce (UK)

Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Mr I.G. Galbraith, Headmaster of Ipswich School, was the principal t at the London dinner of the Old Ipswichian Club held last night at the East India, Devonshire, Sports and Public Schools Club. Mr N.S. Cawthorn, president of the Ol Club, was in the chair. Mr Nils Blythe also spoke.

clyde Knitwear Limited, Ballot

Road, Irvine, Ayrshire, and

was received by Her Majesty's

Lord-Lieutenant of Ayr and

Arran (Major Richard

Her Royal Highness this

afternoon visited Ayr Race-

course to open "The Princess

April 19: The Duke of Kent

President-in-Chief, the British

Racing Drivers' Club, this

morning visited Benetton For-

Technical Centre, Enstone,

Chipping Norton, Oxford-

shire. The Duke of Kent, Presi-

dent, the Royal Air Force

Benevolent Fund, this evening

attended a dinner at the

Officers' Mess, Strike Com-

mand, Royal Air Force High

Limited. Whiteways

Henderson).

Royal Stand".

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

Service dinner

Royal Engineers

(Transportation) Lieutenant-Colonel E.P. Basley presided at the 65th reunion of the Royal Engineers (Transportation) Officers: Dinner Club held last night at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

University news

Oxford Prize in Law Moderations Maxwell Prize for the best overall performance: Benjamin J. Parker. St Hugh's College Slaughter & May Prize for the best performance in individual

Roman Law: Benjamin J. Parker. St Hugh's College; Criminal Law: Susannah M. Cogman, Keble College; Constitutional Law: Jonathan D. Parker. St. Hugh's College: Introduction to Law: David P. Manknell, University College.

Latest wills

200 Club

Ruth Kathrina Ericson, of London NW3, left estate valued at £777,561

net. She left bequests of effects, and the residue to The Uniting Church in Australia Frontier Services, Sydney. Other estates include, net before (3)0

Mr Alan Hugh George Murley, of Cambridge £609,8%6

Luncheons

presented the Leprechaun Trophy Norman Harris of the Rugby Union Writers' Club. Mr Terry

Air Commodore J.R. Forsythe

presided at a luncheon of the 200

Club held yesterday at the Mer-

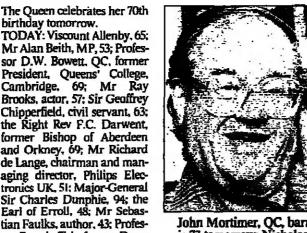
O'Connor also spoke. Service luncheons

The Royal Scots Dragoon

Major-General Charles Ramsay Colonel of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, presided at a lun-cheon of the Regimental Council held yesterday at 108 Princes Street. Edinburgh. Colonel Lord Bruntisfield, Mr Ranald Noel-Paton. Captain John Dawes, Colonel Simon Allen and Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Fellowes were Trucial Oman Scouts

The annual luncheon for Officers of the Trucial Oman Levies, Trucial Oman Scouts, and the Union Defence Force was held yesterday at the Army and Navy Club.

Weekend birthdays



The Queen celebrates her 70th

TODAY: Viscount Allenby, 65;

Mr Alan Beith, MP, 53: Profes-

President, Queens' College,

Cambridge, 69; Mr Ray

Brooks, actor, 57: Sir Geoffrey

Chipperfield, civil servant, 63;

the Right Rev F.C. Darwent.

former Bishop of Aberdeen

and Orkney, 69; Mr Richard

de Lange, chairman and man-

aging director, Philips Elec-

tronics UK, 51: Major-General

Sir Charles Dunphie, 94; the

Earl of Erroll, 48; Mr Sebas-

tian Faulks, author, 43; Profes-

sor Francis Fish, former Dean,

School of Pharmacy, London

University, 72: Mr Graeme

Fowler, cricketer, 39; Sir Ar-

nold France, former chair-

man, Board of Inland Revenue, 85; Mr John Eliot

Gardiner, conductor, 53; Mr

Mauricio Gugelmin, racing

driver, 33; Mr Jerry Hayes,

MP. 43: Mr Giles Henderson,

senior partner. Slaughter and May, 54; Mr Andrew Jaspan,

former Editor. The Observer.

French Emperor 1852-70, Par-

is, 1808; Adolf Hitler, German

dictator, Branau am Inn, Aus-

tria, 1889; Harold Lloyd, film

comedian, Burchard, Nebras-

ka, 1893; Joan Miró, abstract

DEATHS: Eliza Burton, the "Maid of Kent", executed, London, 1534; Giovanni Anto-

nio Canaletto, painter, Venice,

1768; Pontiac, chief of the

Ottawa Indians, Cahokia, Illi-

nois. 1769: Arthur Young,

agriculturist, London, 1820;

Bram Stoker, writer, author of

Dracula, London, 1912; Archi-

bald Madeish, poet and dra-

Oliver Cromwell dissolved the

The first motor race was held

in Paris with Georges Bouton

Soviet troops entered Berlin.

BIRTHS: Jan van Riebeck,

Long Parliament, 1653.

as the only entrant, 1887.

matist. 1982.

TOMORROW

painter, Barcelona, 1993.

Napoleon III,

TODAY

BIRTHS:

birthday tomorrow.



John Mortimer, QC, barrister, playwright and author, is 73 tomorrow: Nicholas Lyndhurst, actor, is 35 today

44; Sir Antony Jay, scriptwriter and producer, 66; Sir Eddie Kulukundis, theatrical producer, 64: Miss Jessica Lange. actress, 47; Mr Cy Laurie, jazz clarinettist, 70: Mr Leslie Phillips, actor, 72: Mr Eric Pickles, MP, 44; Sir John Quicke, agriculturist, 74; Mr R.D.W. Rhodes, Headmaster, Rossall School, Lancashire, 54; Mr Hugh Roberts, Direc-

Anniversaries

naval surgeon, founder of Cape Town, Culemborg, The Netherlands, 1619; John Law.

economist, Edinburgh, 1671;

Friedrich Froebel, educator,

Overweissbach, Germany,

1782; Reginald Heber, bishop

and hymn writer, Malpas,

Cheshire. 1783; Charlone

Yorkshire, 1816; Hippolyte

Adolphe Taine, philosopher

and historian, Vouziers, France, 1828; Sir Herbert

Barker, manipulative sur-geon, Southport, 1869; Henry

de Montherlant, novelist and

DEATHS: St Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury 1093-1109, Canterbury, 1109; Peter

Abelard, theologian, Chalon-sur-Saône, 1142; King Henry VII, reigned 1485-1509, Rich-

mond, Surrey, 1509; Jean Ra-

cine, dramatist, Paris, 1699;

Prince Eugene of Savoy, sol-

dier and statesman, Vienna,

1736; Mark Twain, writer,

Redding, Connecticut, 1910;

dramatist, Paris, 1896.

Thornton.

Vouziers.

Bronte, writer,

tor of the Royal Collection, 48; Mr Christopher Robinson, organist, 60; Mr R.J. Smith, former chairman, Trimoco, 57; Miss Jean Southworth, QC, 70; Mr Gerald Steinberg, MP, 51; Mr Luther Vandross. singer, 45; Air Marshal Sir Richard Wakeford, 74; Mr Henry Wrong, former director, Barbican Centre, 66. TOMORROW: Mrs Angela

Samuel R. Crockett, novelist,

Avignon, 1914; Manfred von

Richthofen (the Red Baron),

German air fighter, shot

down, 1918; Eleanora Duse,

actress, Pittsburgh, 1924; Rob-

ert Bridges, Poet Laureate 1913-30, Chilswell, Kent, 1930;

John Maynard Keynes, Baron

Keynes, economist. Tilton,

Somerset, 1946; Sir Stafford

Cripps, statesman, Zurich,

1952: Sir Edward Appleton.

physicist, Nobel laureate 1947,

Edinburgh, 1965, François

Duvalier, President of Haiti

The Texans defeated Mexico

at the Battle of San Jacinto,

The City of Rome was founded

Brasilia was inaugurated as

the new capital of Brazil, 1960.

Chinese students poured into

Peking's Tiananmen Square,

ignoring government warnings of severe punish-ment, 1989.

by Romulus, 753 BC.

1957-71, Port-au-Prince, 1971.

Barrett, tennis champion, 64: Professor Gerald Benney. goldsmith and silversmith, ô6; Mr I.W. Bruce, director-general, RNIB, 51: Sir George Burton, former chairman, Fisons, 80: Mr Laurence Ellis, former Rector, Edinburgh Academy, 64; Miss Cheryl Gillan, MP, 44; Mr Robin Gourlay, chairman, Anglian Water, 57; Mr J.M. Greenwood, former senior partner, Nabarro Nathanson, 61; Air Marshal Sir John Hunter-Tod 79; Sir Robin Ibbs, chairman. Lloyds TSB Group. 70; Mr John McCabe, former director, London College of Music, 57; Dr Halfdan Mahler, former secretary-general, IPPF, 73; Mr Iain Mills, MP, 56; Sir Geoffrey Palmer, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, 54; Mr Ben Patterson, former MEP, 57; Mr Anthony Quinn, actor, 81; Sir Alexander Stone, lawyer and banker, 89; Major-General Sir John Swinton, Lord-Lieutenant of Berwickshire, 71; the Earl of Verulam, 45.

Marriages

Mr A. Atkins and Señorita M. Vargas Lopez The marriage took place on March 30, in Cuenca, Ecuador, of Adam, son of the Revd and Mrs Timothy Atkins, and Marcia, daughter of Señora Luisa Coronel de Vargas and the late Serior Cesar Vargas

Mr M.E. Lowentha and Mrs G.C. Rhodes The marriage took place on April 12, in London, between Mr Mark Lowenthal and Mrs Georgina Rhodes.

Church news

Appointments The Rev David Bartholomew Curate, St Peter's, Petersfield (Portsmouth): to be Rector, Etton w Helpston and Maxey (Peter-

The Rev David Flewker, Team Vicar, Whitstable St Alphege. Whitstable Team Ministry: to be Vicar, Bethersden w High Halden (Canterbury). The Rev Ricky Panter, Vicar, St

Andrew, Clubmoor, to be Priest-in-charge, Saints John and James, Litherland (Liverpool).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A. Ashdown and Miss L.K. Ewerby The engagement is announced between John, elder son of the late Mr Michael Ashdown and of Mrs Ursula Ashdown, of Truro, Cornwall, and Lotta, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Hans Ewerby, of

Stockholm, Sweden. Mr P.W. Bagiey and Miss K.E. Southall The engagement is announced between William, youngest son of

Lieunenant Commander and Mrs A.F. Bagley, of Wivelsfield Green, East Sussex, and Karie, youngest daughter of the late Mr Michael G. Southall and of Mrs Peter Brain, of Broadway, Worcestershire. Mr H. Byrne and Miss P. Whiting

The engagement is announced between Hugh, son of Mr and Mrs John Byrne, of Dublin, Ireland, and Parnela, youngest daughter of the Rev Antony Whiting and the late Mrs Whiting, of Cork, Ireland. Mr A.L. Gibb and Miss S.M. Barnett

The engagement is announced between Antony, son of the late Mr W.B. Gibb, DFC, and of Mrs Mary Gibb, of St Martin, Jersey, and Sasha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Barnett, of East Haddon.

Mr M.H. Gordon and Miss H.J. Champion The engagement is announced between Milion, son of the late Mr

and Mrs James Gordon, of Santoy, Jamaica, and Hilary, daughter of the late William Roy Champion and of Mrs Freda Champion, of Boldre, Hampshire.

Mr M.A. Gray-Spencer and Miss R.E.M. Capel The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr

and Mrs John Gray-Spencer, of Sydney, Australia, and Rosalind, younger daughter of the late Captain William Capel and of Mrs Capel, of Brook Green, London, formerly of Lanteglos-by-Fowey. Mr J. Harper and Miss J.A. Davies

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs T. Harper, of Nova Scotia, and lemima Ann, daughter of Mrs A. Davies, of Plas Clough, Denbigh. Mr J.C. Loveland and Miss S.J. Klewe

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs C. Loveland, of Ringwood, Hampshire, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C. Klewe, of

Count A.P. Ignatieff and Miss M. Bell The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Count and Countess Paul Ignatieff, of Monaive, Dumfriesshire, and Melanie, daughter of Mr Derck Bell, MBE, of Pagham, Sussex, and Mrs Pamela Bell, of Cape-

town, South Africa. Mr J. Østor

and Miss M.E. Taylor The engagement is announced between Jøran, son of Mr and Mrs. Bjørn Østom, of Oslo, Norway, and Michelle, daughter of Mr and Mrs Maurice Taylor, of Telford, Shropshire.

Mr S.R.M. Philips

and Miss M.R. Kish The engagement is announced between Simon; son of Mr and Mrs R.P.M. Philips, of Knockholt, Kent. and Marion, younger daughter of Mrs J.E. Kish, of Littleport, Cambridgeshire, and the late Mr G. Kish, of Hungary. SAMENCE

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新教育

Mr J.T.de V. Rush and Miss A.C. Parker

The engagement is announced between Tuby, only son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Rush, of Barnham, Suffolk, and Alison, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Parker, of St Mawes, Cornwall.

Mr T.J. Salkield

and Miss C.M. Smalles The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Salkield, of Royston. Hertfordshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs LC. Smalles, of Ashford, Middlesex.

Mr G.B. Usher and Dr R.M.S. Thomson The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Professor and Mrs Michael Usher, of York, and Rachel, daughter of Dr and

Mrs Kenneth Thomson, of York.

and Miss C.L. Norman The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Mr J.M. Venner, of Paima, Ma-jorca, and Mrs S.M. Venner, of Rowington, Warwickshire, and Clare, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A.H. Norman, of

Eccleston, Chester. Mr.E.A. Woodall and Miss A.J. Pritchett

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Woodall, of Great Hormead, Hertfordshire, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Desmond Pritchett, of Blackheath, London, SE3.

Church services tomorrow

Second Sunday after Easter

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 Choral C, Darke in F, Surely is the true light (Harris): 3.30 Choral E, Stanford in C, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton)
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP: 9.15 HC: 11 Choral Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Christus vincti, Christ our Paschal Lamb (Sheppani), Ven J Barton: 4 Choral E, Second Service (Moore). Christ died for us (Buck).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green: 7.40 M: 8 HC: 10 Chorst Euch, Confitemini Domino (Constantini), Mass in E flat (Bairstow), Ave verum corpus (Mozzri). The Dean; 3.30 Choral E. Mass in E flat (Bairstow), Christo resurgenti (Couperin), Canon J Simpson.

Canon J Simpson.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30
M. Right Rev Lord Runcle: 11 S Euch.
Ridout in F. Teach us we pray (Ridout), Rev
Dr M Chandler: 3.15 E. Ridout in B flat.
Vertue (Ridout): 5 Scouts, Rev M Morris. Vertile (RIGOUIR; 5 SCOUIS, Rev M MOITIS.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Ave verum corpus [Elgar], Archdeacon D Turnbull; 3 E. Walmisley in D minor. O sing joyfully (Basten).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Rev J Jones; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Sancti Diminici (Rubbra). Canon B Thompson; 3.20 St George's Day; 6 Choral E & Licensing of Angila University Chaplain, Watson in E, My shepherd is the living Lord (Tomkins).

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M.

Inving Lord (Tomkins).

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M,
TE Deum (Stanford in B flat). Jubilate
(Britten). The Archdeacon: 11 S Euch,
Stanford in F. Heilig ist der Herr
(Schubert). Rev K Hobbs: 2 Scouts' &
Guides', St George's Tide: 3,30 E, Purcell in
G minor. Thou wit keep him (Redman).
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7,40 MB.

C minor. Thou wilt keep him (Redman).
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8
Communion: 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis
(Haydn). Up up my heart (Bach). Canon M
Wright: 3 Si George's Day: 5.30 E. Up up
my heart (Bach). Blair in B minor.
Hallelujah Chorus (Handel).
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon D
Hodgson: 10 M. Te Deum in A flat (Harris).
Jubiliate Deo (tone v). Haec dles. Canon M
Perry: 11.15 HC. Mass in four paris (Tailis).
Credo orbis factor. Canon R Coppin: 3.30
E. Magnificat septimi toni (Victoria). Nunc
dimittis (Palestrina). Christ our Paschal
Lamb.

Lamb.
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch.
Collegium Regale (Howells). The Lord is
my shepherd (Berkeley). The Dean: 2 Scout
Council. St George's Tide: 3.45 E. Bullock
in D. Antiphon (Britten). in D. Antipnon (Britten).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev Sir J.
Alleyne: 9.45 Euch, Missa III (Hassler).
Jesu dulcis memoria (Dering). Canon M.
Wilson: 11.15 M. Jubilate in B. flar
(Stanford). Sing a song of joy (Harris). Rev J.
Clark: 3 St. George's Day & Parade: 6.30 E.
Stanford in B. flat, How lovely is thy
dwelling place (Brahms). Rev C. Matthews. LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8. 11.45 HC: 10.30 Choral M. Jubilate in C (Britten), Te Deum in B flat (Stanford), Zadok the Priest (Handel). The Provost: 2.30 St George's Day, Rev C Bradshaw: 4 Choral E. Ireland in C. Love is come again (Paterson), The Treasurer.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria). Cantate Domino (Pitori), Salvator mundi (Palestrina), The Dean: 3.30 E. Second Service (Gibbons), Lord how long witt thou be angry (Purcell).

HINCOLD CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8. 12.30 HC: 9.30 S Euch, Darke In E. The Lord Is my shepherd (Requiem). The Subdean: 11.15 M. Te Deum & Benedictus in G (Sumsion), The King of love (Bairstow), Rev E Noreus: 2 St George's Day: 3.45 E. Watson in E. Evening hymn (Gardiner). LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC: 10.30 Euch, Canon N Vincent: 3 Choral E. The Dean: 4 HC.

LIANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L. 8.12.15 Holy Euch; 9 Parish Euch, The Dean; 11 S Euch, Leighton In D, Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (Worsely). Rev N Court; 3.30 Choral E. Collegium Regale (Howells). Flocks in pastures green abiding (Cantana 208): 6.30 E & Setmon, Mr A Steele.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Service in C (Irejand). Christ rising again from the dead fromkins). Canon J Antherton: 6.30 E, Christ rising (Tye). Canon J Artherton. Christ rising (Tye), Canon J Artherton.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC.
The Provost; 9.30 S Euch, Mozart in C

KV258, Benedictus (Mozart). The Provost; 6
Choral E, Collegium Regale (Howells), My
shepherd is the living Lord (Tomkins).

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch: 10.30 S
Euch, Robert Ashfield in C, Sicut cervus
(Palestrina): 6.30 E. Filth Service
(Tomkins), My shepherd is the living Lord
(Tomkins), A Pantasy (Tomkins).

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL 9.30 M, Boyce in C: 10.30 Euch, Missa Sancti Petri Leighton), Canon T Roper: 3.30 E. Purcell n G minor, in exitu Israel (Wesley). in G minor, in exitu Israel (Wesley).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 H.C. Canon D

Durston: 10 Euch, Shephard, Mass. Jesu
dulcis memoria (Shephard), Rev A Philip:
11.30 Healing & Laying on of hands: 3 E.
Dyson in D. Beati quorum via (Stanford).
SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 H.C. 9.45 MP;
10.30 S Euch, Rev S Pedley: 3 St George's
Day Parade & Service: 6.30 Festal E &
Sermon, The Provost. SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, The Provost: 3 E, Rev H Cunliffe.

CUILITE.
SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30
Parish C. Britten in C. Ye choirs of new Jerusalem (Stanford). The Provost: 3.15
Scout Service: 5.45 Stanford in A. Blessed City (Bairstow).
TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 M, The

PERSONAL COLUMN

WAREFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Rev A Jennings; 9.15 Parish C. The Provost: 15 Soleron Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Jubilate, Collegium Regale (Howells), Now the Bareen Blade riseth (French Traditional), Rev A Jennings; 6.30 E, Gray In F minor, Sing we merrily (Batten), Canon D Baxter.

wells Cathedral: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch. Stanford in C/F. Otaste and see (Williams), Rev G Farran; 11.30 M Sumsion in G. Holroyd in D. Up up my hear with gladness (Bach): 3 E. Sumsion in G. How beautiful upon the mountains (Stainer), Rev J Parfitt: 5 St George's Day. Rev J Parfit: 5 St George's Day.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 M,
Westminster Service (Clucas). Hoec est dies
(Handel), Canon D Hutt; 11.15 Euch.
Gloria (Mass in three paris) (Byrd), Sanctus
& Benedictus (Tyes), Agnus Dei (Power).
Christ our Paschal Lamb (Sheppard), Rev B
Fenton: 3 E Service for men's voices
(Mundy). Christ rising again (Byrd), Rev U
Monberg: 5.45 Recftal; 6.30 E, Rev R
Bailard.

Ballard.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30
M, Jubilate in C (Britten), Lift up your heads Uackson). The Archbishop of Uganda: 11.30 Euch. Abrams in F minor. Locus late (Bruckner); 2 Scouts & Guides: 3.30 E, O raste and see (Williams), Abrams in D minor. Like as the hari (Howells), Very Rev D Edwards.

PORK MINSTER: 8, 8,45 HC: 10 S Euch, Darke in F, Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd), Ri Rev D Lunn: 11,30 M, Te Deum in G (Williams), Jubilate in C (Britten): 2 Scouts St George's Day: 4 E, Murrill in E, Expectans exceptavi (Wood), Rev Dr E Norman

Norman.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL Clwyd: 8 HC: 11
Ch Euch. Jackson in G. Let all mortal flesh
keep silence (Bairstow), The Canon in
Residence: 2.30 St George's Day service.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL London: 8 HC:
8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Messe Solennelle
(Langlais), Deus semplerme (Plainsong),
Regina coell (Alchinger), Most Rev G
Wernan: 3.15 E. Collegium Sancti
Johannis Canlabrigiense (Howells), Hacc
dles (Byrd), Rev J Halliburton: 5.15 Recital.
ALL SAINTS, Marriaret Street, Wi: 8,5.15
LM: 10.20 MP: 11 HM. Missa O quam
gloriosum (Victoria), The Vicar; 6 Solemn E
B. B. The Short Service (Gibbons), Rev I
Davies.

ALL SOULS. Langham Place. Wi: 9 Communion: Il Rev J Cook: 6.30 Communion Service. Rev R Tice. THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, WI: I Missa brevis (Casali), This joyful Eastertide (Wood), Jesus junzit se (Palestrina).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH. SW3: 8.12.15 HC: 11 M. Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley). Rev Dr P Elvy; 6 E. Rev Dr P Elvy. CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15.6.30. Rev S FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15; 6.15 LM; 11 Solemn Latin, Missa e sole (Halmos). Dextera Domini (Lassus). Ave

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON. Brompton Road. SW7: 9 ASB HC. Rev J Peters: 11 Informal, Rev S Downham; 5,7.30 Informal HC, Rev S Millar. THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Spatzenmesse (Mozari), Regina caell (Howells):12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass; 3.30 V&B, Surrexit pastor bonis (Lassus). ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iversa Gdos. W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archolshop Y Gizirian. WESLEY'S CHAPPEL City Road, ECZ: 9.45,11 Rev P Suicilife.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SWI: 10 Prayer & Meditation: 11 HC, Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30 Rev Dr P

ST ALBAN'S CHURCH, CI Kent:9.45 MP: 10.30 S Mass & Ser ST ALBAN S CHORCH, CHARLEN, SERIOLS, STANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St. ECZ: 11 Choral HC, Rev P Schmiege: 7 Bach Vespers, Cantata 66 "Effreut euch Ihr Herzen", Christ ist etistanden (Walterl, Rev P Schmiege.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, ECI: 9 HC, 11 Choral Euch & Confirmation, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Haec dies (Arcadell), Bishop M Wood: 6.30 E. Service for five voices (Weelkes), Surrent pastor bonus (Lhéritier), The Rector.

ST BRIDES, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Jubilate (Ireland in F), Jackson in G. The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley): 6.30 Choral E. Magnificat/Nunc Diminis (Murrill in E). Proclaim his triumph (Grier).

(Grier).
ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch,
Missa brevis (Palestrina). Stetit Jesus
(Regnart). Rev P Bishop.
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square. W1: 8.30
HC: 11 S Euch. Missa brevis (Williams).
The Rector. ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch (1662), John Paul, Rector. ST JAMES'S. Susser Gardens. W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Gabriell), Maria Magdalene (Dulot), Rev B Wilson: 6 Choral E. Humfrey in F, This is the Day (Appn)

(Anon).

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly, W1: 8.30 HC; I1 S
Euch. Rev D Reeves: 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Pamily C,
Sonata No.2 (Mendelssohn), Rev J
Meadway: 6.30 EP & Praise, Rev D
Richards.

ST LIMES Challen STAL 8.12 E MC. ST LUKE'S. Chelsea, SW3; 8,12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Head the voice and prayer

(Tailis). Rev D Warson; 6.30 Choral E. Haec dies (Byrd), Rev D Walson.
ST MARKS, Regents Park Rd. NWI: 8 HC: 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch; Jackson in G (Magdalen cases from sobs & sight (Stanford), Rev A Shaw. ST MARGARETS, Westeninster, SWI: II S Euch, Darke in F, Let all the world (Williams), Canon D Gray. ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2:
8.12.30 HC. Rev W Ratchford; 9.45 Euch,
The Vicar: 11.30 Visitors, Rev B
Schunemann; 2.45 Chinese, Rev J Bennet;
5 Chora! E; 6.30 Evening, Rev B
Schunemann.
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Rensington
W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, The
Vicar; 11.15 Choral M, Rev F Gelil; 6.30 E,
Rev F Gelil.

Rev F Gelli.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN. Primrose Hill: 8
HC: 10.30 Parish Euch: 5.30 EP: 6 Taize
Service.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place. SW1: 8,9 HC; 1)
Solemn Euch, Communion service in C
(Ireland). My beloved spake (Hadley),
Flocks in pastures green abiding (Bach).
Rev N Dawson.

T PETERS. Eston Square SW1: 8 15 HC.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SWI: 8.15 HC: 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Paschai Kyrie (Sheppard), Mass Cantaie (Sheppard), Rise heart (Williams), Saraband for the morning of Easter (Howells), Fr A Chidwick.

Chlowics.
ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 11
HC (Anthony Caesar), Christ is risen again (Brockless), 1 got me flowers (Williams), Rev M Barney; 5.30 E, Rev T Tiney. CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tawer of London: No Service - London Marathon Sunday. CHAPEL ROYAL St. James's Palace: \$30 HC; 11.15 MP. Rise heart thy Lord is risen (Williams), Canon A Bowden. CHAPEL ROYAL Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC: 11 M. Dyson in D. Zadok the Priest (Handel): 3.30 E, We walt for thy loving kindness (McKle), Wesley in E. 1 was

glad (Parry).
GROSVENOR CHAPEL. South Audley Street, WI: 8.15 HC: 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Grayston Ives), Rise heart thy Lord is risen (Williams), Grand Choeur In D (Gullmant), Rev D Dewey.
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAYOY, WCZ: 11 M. Te Deum, Stanford in C. I was glad (Parry). The Chapiain: 12.30 HC. THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP. Te Deum Laudamus (Smart in F). The Lord is my shephrd (Schubert), The Masier. The Master.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SWI: 11 M, When the Lond turned again (Batten), Now thank we all our God (Bach), Band of the Life Guards, Rev G Watts; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL Greenwich, SE 10: 10.30 Choral E, Dyson In F, Expectans expectavi, Rev C French.

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There is no question of our having sufficient power in ourselves, we cannot claim anything as our own. The power we have comes from

ANNIVERSARIES

SAUNDERS:LYONS - On 21st April 1998 at Oldway Maredons, lan to Kuren. On the occasion of our First Approvementy of The Imperia Hotel Torquey, With all no

BIRTHS

ABBOTT - On April 18th at Queen Charlotte's Hospital. to Flona (nee Giddings) and Mark. 2 daughter. Sophie Helen. 2 sister for Jamia. CHAWSHAY-WILLIAMS
On April 15th, to Melies
(nés Church) and Mark, ;
daughter, Felicity Jame, ;
plant for Sevena.

DEL MAR - On 12th April. to Jonathan and Annabel (Gallop), a son. Maxim Teh. FRY - On April 16th, to Resembly (safe Trefusis) and David a daughter, Georgius

GREEN - On 11th April in Edinburgh, to Maryle and Edward, a son, Frederick Joseph Lambert (Freddie). HARE - On 11th April 1996 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Karen and John, a daughter, Alice Elizabeth, a sister to Kate and Lucy.

BIRTHS HARVEY - On 17th April 1996, to Neil and Bonnie (nee Glendster), a son, Pater James. McMER.E - On April 4th, to Candida (née Otto-Jones) and James, a daughter, lone Helen.

MilMOZ - On April 13th at The Pertand Hospital Mark and Kathryn joyfully amounce the birth of their PECK - On 18th April to Lincy (nee Selby) and Oliver, two daughters. Minnie and Kate.

GIRMCEY - On 15th April at Queen Charlotle's. London. to Antonia unle Giovanezzh and Simon, a son. Dominic Edwin, a brother for Alessandra. Deo Gratian. RANDOLPH - On April 18th. at Uccie (Brussels) to Griet (née Descheemaeker) and

Fergus, a son, Alexander Henri Beckham, a brother ROWLAND - John, Juliet, Ben, Matthew, Luke and Freya are delighted to

TEMPERTON - On 9th April 1996, to Caroline 'Carrie' (née Day) and Andrew, a son, Samuel Alexander, a brother for Datey.

BATE - On 18th April 1996, peacefully at the North peacefully at the North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple. Margaret of North Molion, North Devon. Formerly of Datchet and Chama, Desriy beloved wife of leve and a much leved lister and aunt. Funeral Service at North Molion Parish Church on Friday 26th April at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but doubtons it desired may be sent to J. Westacott & Sen. Funeral Directors, 2a, West Street, South Molion, North Devon which will be shared between North Molion Church and S.B.A.F.A.

BEHBER - See Creptn.

BOLTON - Suddenly on MOLTON - Suddenly on Monday April 16th, George McClure (Mec), aged 63 years, Devoted husband of Shelia and loving father of Roger, John and Elizabeth, Funerel at Bradshaw Church, Bolton, at 11.30 am on Thursday April 25th, Family flowers only. Donations if whiled to The Church Mission Society, 157 Waterion Road, Sci. 8th, A Thaghingstying Service to be

BUCKWELL - Bestl Adam Buckwell D.S.O., M.C., on 18th April 1996, beloved husband of Betty, father of Anthony, Fumeral private, Family Bowers only please, Donations to The British Red Cross

DEATHS GREPIN - On April 16th 1996
Many Patricle 'Pat' in her
57th year Beacerbity after a
king finess, widow of Paul
Benner and Roy Crepin,
dearly loved mother of
Defrife and the late Michael
Real Benner G.C. Fuseral at
Putney Vale Crematorium
on April 25th at 12.50 pm.
Enquiries to James and
Thomas f/D, Mill Read,
Cobham, Surrey KT11 3AL
be: (01932) 862009.

Hill. - Thomas Raworth on Tuesday 16th April aged 59 years. loved husband of Christine and father of Panils. Amazbel. Robin and the late Tracy. Funeral at St. Andrew's Church. Hamble. on Thursday 25th April at 12 hoon and Memorial Service at 5.30 pm St Mary's Church. East Molesey, Surrey (same day). Donations to RNLI. No flowers.

HUNT - Arthur Geoffrey suddenly on 18th April, dear husband of Doreen and father of David. Line Fellow of Fizwilliam College and formerly Cambridge University Draftsman. Funeral at Cambridge Crematorium. New West Crematorium, New West crematorium, New West Chapal, on Wednesday Andi 24th at 3.30 pm. Patnily Rowers anly. Donations if desired to Payworth Hospital NHS Trust (Homograft) c/o Harry Williams. 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge, CB4 3EJ. At Geoffrey's request there will be no memorial service.

DEATHS JOUGHIN - Suddenly, on Thursday 11th April 1996. Sir Michael Joughin agol 69 years, "Ederside", Findhorn, Moray, Beloved husband of Moray. Beloved hustend of Anne. dear father of James and Gall. Stephather of Elsine and Linda. loving grandfather of Jason, Ketry and Kevin. The funeral service was conducted at the Church of Scotland Findhorn, followed by a family cremation service at Inverse.

Findhorn, followed by a facely cremation service at inverness Crematorium. Six Michael's ashes were later scattered in the waters of the Moray Firth. Donations to his memory can be made to R.N.L.I. per Robin Miller, Craigendaroch, Findhorn. Moray. Craigendaroca, Findhora.
Moray.
KEANE - Donald Edward
Keane aged St years. Passed
suddenly away on 29th
March. Former treasurer of
Electroins: Limited. Limiton.
Beloved husband of Mary
and loving father of Cabriel.
Cathering and Column

and loving father of Cabriel, Catherine and Colman. Requiem Mass and finneral has taken place. LUGEON - François Roger Lugeon. Hon. MBE, aged 83, on 29th March at La Tourene in Lausanne, Switzerland, after a short threes. Devoted and much loved trabam of Marie-Louise, father of Pierre, grandfather and green-grandfather. pierre. grandfather and great-pandfather.

MONL - Count. On 17th April 1996. Waclaw aged 93 years. Greatly loved by his family and friends in Engined and Poland. Funeral 11 am at the Church of The Sacred Hearts, Chariton Kings. Cheitenham. on Thursday 25th April.

DEATHS PAINE - Robert, Architect, Died quietly at Fordwich on 18th April 1596, Cremation on 28th April at 1 o'clock at Barbarn Crematorium.

PECHARDS - On April 15th in York District Hospital peacefully after a short liness. Prue, very dearty loved and loving wife of Kemeth. belowed mother of Penny. Felicity, the late Daphne, Jereny. Hilary and Rosenary and grandmother of Frances. Andrew. Senis. of Frances. Andrew. Sents.
Alastair and Rosy. Funeral
Service on Monday April
29th in York Minster at 2 pm
followed by private
cremetium. Family flowers
only. Donations may be
made to Louissensik Research

RUSSELL - In Edinburgh on April 18th 1996, peacefully at The Royal Infirmary, Hetem Dorothea Russell (née Baird) of Drumciuan. Feshiebridge, Beloved wife of Victor, much loved sister of Belty and Bob. loving mother of Madeline. Shella and Sandy and the late Hugh and a friend of many. Thankspiving and burial at insh Church. Kincraig at 12 boon on Wednesdov 24th April. "I am the Resurraction and the Life. He who believes in me even though he died yet will be live" John 11:25.

DEATHS SCOTT - John Hamilton died peacefully on April 13th aged 65 years. Much loved father and grandfather. Mamorial Service to be held at 3t Mary Abbus Church. Keastogon Church Street, London at 3 pm Friday 17th May, Donations if desired to R.N.L.I. South West District. 6 King Square. Bristol.

STRVERS - On April 18th, Geoffrey Mondows late of Shrivenham, Oxon and Callington, Cornwall. Beloved husband of Elleen, loving father of Lealey, stepson Grian and son-in-law Jonathan and adored grandad of his grandchildren. For all his family and friends both here and in Australia, he was a wonderful map.

STRATION - On Good Friday April 5th, 1996. Christine, in her 59th year. Beloved wife of the late John, devoted mother of Jennifer and Suseryan to Adriano and Nicholas. Cramalion brivate. Adriano and Micholas.

Gremation private.

Densitions payable to NSPCC
may be sent c/o Edward
White & Son, 5 South
Pallant, Chichester. PO19 MEMORIAL SERVICES

IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE GEDOY - Reginald, Catlist. In unfading memory of my beloved husband, who died in Ceneva on 21 April 1994. Always in my beart and in my thoughts, and in the hearts of all who love and miss him. The greater the love, the greater the grief.'

BIRTHDAYS DOROTHY PAY - NAN.
"Happy 80th Berthday" on 18th
April with lots of love from
Trevor, Lucia and Christophe

SATTERNIA 5 minutes Class June, DN res, 290 pw, lovely SM, roof grds. 0085 097 215. CHELSIA. Second bed to let in beautiful 2 had lover grad floor seart in Bolhun gens. Priv 60° landscaped tith. But femilis in 20°s. C.166 P.W. From May 16th 6 raths. 6171 579 4763. CLAPMAN SW4. prof n/e to share fist. Dide room, e/lesiding common. Inter v.Close. £360 pm. Tel: 01827 570 780.

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CONGRATULATIONS ASSI Pube H.Sc. Charming, withy, aftractive, great wife, wonderful mother and now a degree last We're a ground, Nigot, Etypobeth, Witharn, Alexander,

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to Itan,

The state

Kalim Siddiqui, director of the Muslim Institute, died in Pretoria on April 18 aged 62. He was born

in July 1933.

A RABBLE-ROUSING firebrand, who thrived on conflict. Kalim Siddiqui was one of Britain's most radical Islamic leaders. His condemnation of Western involvement in the Gulf, his public endorsements of the fatwa against Salman Rushdie, and his call for Islamic revolution aroused belligerent controversy. Although he had no spiritual authority, he styled himself as the spokesman of Britain's nearly 1.5 million Muslims, founding the London-based Muslim Institute and calling for the establishment of a nonterritorial Islamic parliament.

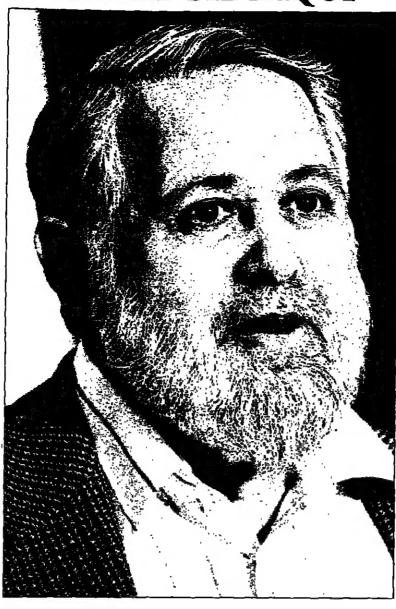
Regarding the West as a sink of corruption, he denounced it in apocalyptic terms. At times he seemed almost to be daring the British Government to prosecute him, calculating, perhaps, that he would be seen as a martyr if convicted, and a hero if let free. His extreme rantings certainly made him something of a favourite with television producers. However, among the majority of more moderate Muslims, he was seen as a dangerous fanatic, an isolated voice within the Islamic community who had set back its interests with promotions of religious separatism.

Kalim Siddiqui's sub-continental origins may partly explain his aggressive defence of Islam. He was born near Hyderabad in southern India, but grew up in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, in northern India where his father was a junior police inspector and small landowner. Even as a schoolboy he was embroiled in religious conflict as, in the months before partition, Hindus and Muslims attacked each other in the classrooms. The seeds of his future fusion of faith and politics were sown as, at election time, he would help the old men and women of his neighbourhood along the dusty tracks to the polling booths.

After partition in 1947, the Hindu-Muslim conflict escalated murderously and the embittered Siddiqui family migrated to Pakistan and became refugees living in a two-room hovel in Karachi. The young Kalim failed to complete his studies. He sold vegetables and slept rough on the streets before joining the Pakistani Army as an officer cadet. But, already a Muslim militant, he was dismissed, he claimed. for insisting on washing himself in the lavatory with water in the Muslim style, instead of using paper as a colonial would. He became active in student politics, editing a Karachi broadsheet The Leader, run by an Islamist group, and blazoned with such headlines as "Can Humanity

Disown God?" In 1954 Siddiouri was sent to London to learn journalism, and, after working, on a number of local papers, he joined The Guardian - a paper whose liberal vision he always claimed to cherish as a sub-editor. While working night shifts, he pursued his studies parttime, starting with O levels and

KALIM SIDDIQUI



culminating with a PhD from University College London. His thesis fol-Max Weber's line that conflict has a positive role in

Siddiqui took this sense of conflict very much to heart, becoming increasingly convinced that Western society fostered a deep-seated animus against Muslim culture, dating back to the Crusades. He was prominent among Britain's earliest Islamic activists. During the Suez crisis he was to be found demonstrating in Trafalgar Square. and at the time of the Algerian War he went to Paris to march in protest up the Chamos-Elysées.

In 1972 he turned his back on journalism to found the Muslim Institute, based in Bloomsbury and funded by subscriptions from members and donations from Muslims all over the world. Its aim, he explained. was to counteract the way in which Western political thought had penetrated that of Islam by working to disengage the two at an intellectual level. He himself became director.

For some years he lived quietly, like

many a self-made member of the lower-middle classes, in a semi-detached house in Slough with crazypaved front garden and a BMW parked outside. "If there was a competition to find the most assimilated Muslim in Great Britain I would win first prize." he once declared, with a characteristic high-pitched giggle. His donnish half-moon spectacles and avuncular cardigan-clad figure

seemed to confirm this. But from a

photograph in his book-lined study the

Ayatollah Khomeini glared down sternly, contrasting oddly with the suburban scene. The 1979 franian revolution was the turning point in Siddiqui's life. It established for the first time the sort of state that his theories advocated — a not inclined to be well disposed newly self-confident version of Islam, contemptuous of everything Western. Siddiqui became a radical Muslim

fundamentalist calling for a special relationship between British Muslims and Iran. As a frequent visitor to Tehran, he became a highly regarded guest of the Government.

In 1989 Siddiqui found notoriety in

CANON PETER GILLINGHAM

Canon Peter Gillingham, LVO,

BY REASON of his stature active and varied ministry -

main Sunday service.

that the death edict against Rushdie remained in force. In 1990 Siddiqui aroused further controversy with the issue of his Muslim Manifesto, excoriating every aspect of British life from the legal system to the morality of what he described as a "post-Christian, largely

pagan, secular society."

This manifesto set out Siddiqui's own uncompromising views on everything from the need for a nonterritorial Muslim parliament, to separate schools, dress and inheritance rights. He even suggested the imposition of a tax on all Muslims to be used for campaigns against those who did not conform with Islamic teachings. "Let us make it quite clear," he said on January 4. 1992, as 155 Muslim delegates assembled for the first time at Kensington Town Hall, "Muslims will oppose, and if necessary defy, any policy or legislation which we regard

Britain with his endorsement of Kho-

meini's fativa against Salman Rushdie. Indeed. evidence suggested, that

Siddiqui's opinions about Rushdie

confirmed Khomeini in his belief that

the author deserved to die. He cam-

paigned for the total and unconditional withdrawal of Satanic Verses from

sale, suggesting that any prior pro-

ceeds from the navel should be given to

families of victims who died protesting

In October 1989, at a meeting in

Manchester, he requested all present

to raise their hands in agreement that

Salman Rushdie should be "put away". The meeting ended with more

than 300 Muslims chanting "death to

Rushdie". But Siddiqui - much to Rushdie's distress - narrowly escaped

being prosecuted for incitement to

murder on the ground that there was

insufficient evidence to justify criminal

Although he obdurately persisted in

reissuing the farwa, intent on keeping Rushdie "in a rabbit hole" for the rest

of his life - and threatening that any

others tempted to go down the same road would suffer the same fate - his

casuistry sheltered him from formal

prosecution. Even this year he went

against the softer line recently indicat-

ed by Iran, declaring - to the

annoyance of President Rafsanjani

against it in Pakistan and India.

as inimical to our interests". Siddiqui refused ever to compromise and continued in his work, fundraising in South Africa, Iran and the Gull States, notwithstanding his two heart attacks and heart bypass operation. In a press interview he expressed enthusiasm for Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, saying that he hoped the lragis would "smash on to Riyadh" and this was despite the fact that, as one of Iran's leading apologists, he was towards Iraq. Earlier this year he wrote a letter to The Times criticising the Government for its plans to deport Muhammad al-Masari.

Kalim Siddiqui is survived by his wife, Suraiya, whom he married in 1960, and by a son and a daughter. Another son died of a brain haemorrhage at the age of four.

Chaplain to the Queen, 1952-84, died on April 4 aged 81. He was born on May 3, 1914.

and good looks, Peter Gillingham always commanded respect and attention. This was just as well, since many of his views and ideas could have been regarded as bordering on the over-risky. During one of the most settled periods in an from 1960 to 1977 when he was vicar of Horsham - he was often at odds with the diocesan authorities. Sensitive to the wishes of his

congregation, he was ready to introduce not only variations in the conventional church services of the day but also to start entirely new ones - such as the Easter Midnight Mass and the Parish Choral Eucharist at 9.15am, which is now at St Mary's, Horsham, the Other monuments to his

work in the town include the resiting and building of the church school, the foundation stone of which was laid by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in 1965, the restoration and refurbishing of the memorial chapel in the parish church, and the acquisition of a disused chapel, barn and outbuildings and extensive paved area for parking (following the closure of a local preparatory school) to form a

very large church centre. Such

was the scale of his pragmatic innovation and renewal that the local phrase was coined: The vicar's inspiration becomes the wardens' perspiration." Peter Llewellyn Gillingham was born in Birmingham, one of three children in the family the redoubtable Canon F. H. Gillingham of Essex county cricket fame. Ill-health,

in the form of rheumatic fever. caused his schooling at Marlborough to be abandoned, but he recovered sufficiently to gain entrance to Oriel College, Oxford, where he read PPE. staying in Oxford to prepare for ordination at Wycliffe

He served his title at Tonbridge, going on from there to a second curacy at St George's, Oakdale, Poole, just before the outbreak of the Second World War. He then became a most distinguished naval chaplain. Dispatched to the famous "O" Class destroyer flotilla he found himself on the "Murmansk run" of convoys to Russia, perhaps the



most demanding of all the theatres of war in terms of engagement with the elements and the enemy.

His sympathy with, and recognition of, the human stresses borne by the various crews found expression in his request to the flotilla commander on Good Friday 1944. just before his convoy was due to return from Russia, that permission be granted for the ships' companies to take part in a religious service prior to departure. The captain of HMS Onslow thought for a moment and then replied: "Give me half an hour, padre, and we'll surprise both God and the Russians." Under the bemused gaze of NKVD security men, Gillingham then led the service and preached

on Russian soil. On demobilisation, a spell as chaplain to Blundell's School, Tiverton, preceded six years spent as chaplain at the Royal Chapel in Windsor Great Park. His time there covered the death of King George VI, with the consequent period of bereavement for the Royal Family, during which his presence and support were invaluable. He once delivered a notable series of sermons in the Chapel Royal on the significance of the emblems used in the Coronation. For his services to the Royal Household he was appointed MVO in 1955, later transferred to LVO.

At the direct request of Cuthbert Bardsley, then Bishop of Croydon, Peter Gillingham was in 1955 appointed vicar of St Mildred's, Addiscombe, moving from there to Horsham in 1960. His long career continued with the chaplaincy at Sherborne School for Girls (where his wife was appointed a housemistress). There were in addition spells in South Africa and South Carolina in the United States before his final retirement to Aldeburgh in Suffolk. Here he could indulge in his favourite and lifelong passion for sailing.

Having taken part in the Fastnet race and "crewed" with friends in ocean-going yachts, he was able to be his own captain aboard the cabincruiser Enid Mary in which he explored at length the navigable waters of East Anglia and instructed his "amateur" crew in the complexities of boat control. It was an environment in which his outstanding qualities of leadership and humour could be given full expression. With the additional lure of the golf course and the local fund of classical and choral musical activity, in which he took a full part life remained energetic and busy almost to the end of his life.

He married Diana (née Hood) in 1947. She survives him with their four children. the eldest of whom is rector of St Clement's, Oxford.

JOY NEWTON

Joy Newton, founder member of the Royal Ballet and later its ballet mistress, died on April 4 aged 82. She was born in May 1913.

JOY NEWTON'S most famous dancing role was the cameo part of the Ballad Singer in The Rake's Progress. which Ninette de Valois had created for her at the ballet's premiere in 1935. Made up as a raddled old woman (she was only 22 at the time). Newton came on during the scene where the Rake enjoys himself among "ladies of the town". and entertained the party with a drunken and disreputable song. Although her voice was represented by the orchestra. she was required to mouth suggestive words, reputedly written by Constant Lambert Lip-reading balletomanes today still sing along under their breath, the verses having been

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passed along between enthuslasts down the years.

De Valois' brother, the photographer Gordon Anthony, described Newton's performance as "a salaciously comic vignette of the sleazy and genial street singer". Besides this one moment, Newton's stage career was not especially glamorous: hers was the sort of reliable but secondary talent which is cast as the queen in Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty and as the princess or as the heroine's mother in Giselle. But she was perspicacious, taking in all that happened around her, and she was sensible.

Also, she endured; as a pupil of Ninette de Valois grandly named Academy of Choreographic Art from about 1927, she was one of the six young women who became the initial members of the opera ballet at the Old Vic theatre two years later, making her company debut in a ballet called The Picnic to music by Vaughan Williams. Born in Wimbledon, she had already been a child dancer as Will-o'the-Wisp in Where the Rainbow Ends when she auditioned for the school. While still a pupil, she took part in works which de Valois presented at the Festival Theatre, Cambridge, and the Abbey Theatre, Dublin.

By the time war broke out, Newton was the only dancer from the original team still with the company. And when de Valois needed an assistant ballet mistress in 1940. Newton's faithful service won her the appointment, and promotion to ballet mistress two years later.

Scarcely had she taken up her new responsibilities when in May 1940 the company was sent on a goodwill tour to The Netherlands, then still neutral. After British wartime

privations, the dancers were delighted by the bright lights and ample food on their opening night in The Hague. But subsequent performances took them to towns close to the German border, and after only four days of the planned ten performances the Germans invaded. There followed a worrying two days confined to their hotel amid the sound of bombs and gunfire, and another 48 hours sheltered in the Dutch countryside before embarking, amid hundreds of other refugees, in the hold of a

cargo boat at Ijmuiden for the 15-hour journey to Harwich.
Joy Newton was one of seven group leaders appointed by de Valois to take a roll call of their own detachment at every halt and departure, to ensure that nobody was left behind amid all the confusion. and mainly night-time travel. Eventually they all arrived safely home, but without most

of their personal possessions or the scenery, costumes and scores for several ballets. Even after they had recovered from that experience. times were not easy for the

Sadler's Wells (later Royal) Ballet. The repertoire had to be maintained and replenished in spite of the constant loss of male dancers - and even the chief choreographer Frederick Ashton - to war service. And this with an itinerary of long tours all over Britain, interspersed with short London seasons, dancing seven or eight performances a week.

In an essay published in a pamphlet about The Sleeping Beauty in 1946, Joy Newton described her duties: devising rehearsal and class schedules to fit in with the dancers' other commitments; conducting rehearsals when the choreographer was not present, and attending all others to learn the new works: arranging replacements whenever a dancer was ill, injured or given another role (this task was complicated by questions of costume size and shortage of materials); besides acting as the centre of communications between all departments, wardrobe, scenery, music etc. Then there were innumerable lists to be made and amended. She seems to have done jobs shared among at least half a dozen people today, but calmly wrote that "it is amazing how much work can be done in small corners and odd halfhours".

However, after the company's opening season at Covent Garden in 1946, Newton left to become the first teacher and principal of the ballet school which the Turkish Government had asked de Valois to set up in Istanbul. She stayed there from 1947 to 1951, and met her husband Walter Postlethwaite there. They married in 1949. She also went back later to help to mount Giselle and Les Rendezvous for dancers from the Turkish school, and taught at the Royal Ballet School in London

from 1963 to 1969. After her husband's death, she ran a small antique shop in Kent. Although both of them were long retired, she and her successor as ballet mistress at Covent Garden. Jean Bidells, reconstructed de Valois' ballet Job for Birmingham Royal Ballet to mark the work's 60th anniversary in 1991. She remained active despite her years, and her death was blessedly sudden, while working in her garden. She leaves no survivors.



Joy Newton in Frederick Ashton's Apparitions, 1937

PERSONAL

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GAMBLING AT OSTEND. PROPRIETOR.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)
BRUSSELS, APRIL 19. The Bruges Correctional Tribunal, which corresponds roughly to our quarier sessions, gave judgment yesterday in a case of the greatest interest, not only to the English and others who have been accustomed to find at Ostend those gambling facilities which form for many the chief arraction of that typical Continental watering-place, but to all who regard it as an agreeable seaside resort. M. Marquet, the keeper of the Ostend Club, who was recently prosecuted for infringements of the law against games of chance. Ostend Club, who was recently prosecuted for infringements of the law against games of chance, has been found guilty and sentenced to three separate months' imprisonment, and three fines of £40 with respect to each of the years 1905, 1906, and 1907. Costs are given against him, with, in default, an additional month's imprisonment, and the back temperature of the pean conference, and

default, an acombinal month's impressionment, and the club furniture has been confiscated.

The two main points to be decided were whether the Cercle Prive was really a private club, and whether baccarat, as played there, was a game in which the chances were in favour of the bank. On the first point the Court holds that Marquet systematically exploited the tables for profit, and that the conditions of the members' dub were a blind. On the second point the Court finds that the bank had an advantage—a conclusion which would seem to be confirmed by the enormous profits made by it. Unless this decision is reversed

ON THIS DAY

April 20, 1920 经国际系统

Infringements of the gambling regulations of Ostend resulted in the keeper of the Ostend Club falling foul of the law. The town profited largely by income derived from the gaming tables

on the probable appeal, gambling will be suspended at Ostend for the second time during recent years. Honest bourgeois, who can enjoy the seaside without adventitious aids, will welcome this, for there is no doubt that of the million rus, for there is no equot that of the minor, visitors during the season, a large proportion were of a class which rendered the place unsuitable for young people. On the other hand, the fown profited largely by the income derived from the tables, and some municipal witnesses went so far as to say that, without gambling. Ostend would be ruined. This seems an extreme view, but it may be doubted whether the decision will commend itself to those even higher circles which regarded the development of Ostend as a proper object for the expenditure of the revenue received from the

Congo rubber forests. It will be remembered that among the works intended by the Sovereign-Founder to be carried out by the Fondation de la Couronne were "the creation at Ostend of the museum promised to the town, the establishment of a great covered hall intended for agricultural, have and contra thouse the intings by an of a great covered hall intended for agricultural, horse, and cattle shows, the joining, by an architectural ensemble, of the Rue Royale with the quarters of the Galleries and Hippodrome, in such a way as to make Ostend, a few hours from London, a bathing city unique in the world." Now that the Fondation de la Couronne is suppressed, Belgium is called upon to spend over £811,000 on these particular works of embellishmente, and many Belgians would prefer to spend the money otherwise.

ELECTROBUS TRIP TO BRIGHTON. - An electrobus, of the type which is now being used on certain routes in London, having been ordered for a local service at Brighton, was the subject yesterday of an interesting experimental trip to demonstrate that this type of ornitibus is capable of carrying from London to Brighton a full complement of passengers with only one charge of electricity. The omnibus made a rapid run via Streatham to Rodhill, where a halt had to be made for some time owing to the overheating of one of the axies. The omnibus, when restarted, went varisfactorily until a point some little distance from Crawley, when overheating again occurred, and a wheel was taken off and adjusted. After this

Traitor Blake gets memoir royalties

The Government reacted with astonishment when a High Court judge ruled that George Blake, the traitor who lives in Moscow, should be allowed to receive £90,000 in royalties from his memoirs. Sir Richard Scott's judgment cast doubt on the Government's policy of binding members of the intelligence and security services to lifelong silence...

Israel warns Jews of revenge attacks

Israel warned all Jewish citizens travelling abroad and Jewish institutions overseas to be on guard against revenge attacks after Thursday's massacre of Arabs sheltering at a United Nations base in southern Lebanon. In Moscow, world leaders backed

Rugby victim wins

A rugby player won a legal battle against the referee he blamed for leaving him paralysed. He had sued for £! million: damages will be decided later Pages L 20 In good heart

The latest recipient of a mechanical heart, which obviates the need for a human transplant, pedalled an exercise bicycle and looked forward to tangoing Page 4

Farmer's £10m legacy A reclusive bachelor farmer from Somerset has been left £10 million in the will of his aunt, the wife of a

brewing magnate..... Page 5 The Queen is 70

The Queen will celebrate her 70th birthday at Sandringham and Windsor tomorrow with family and close friends Pages 7. 21

Off the road Ministers have scrapped plans to privatise the entire main road

Historic thefts

Thefts from historic properties are increasing and only 78 objects have been recovered of the thousand or so stolen during the past five years Page 9

Spooky stay

Investigators of the paranormal are to spend four days and nights monitoring and filming ghosts at Chillingham Castle in Northumberland ... Page 10

Going for Gold

Atlanta is scrambling to prepare for the Olympic Games, which open on July 19, after rains have delayed construction...... Page II Major backs Yeltsin

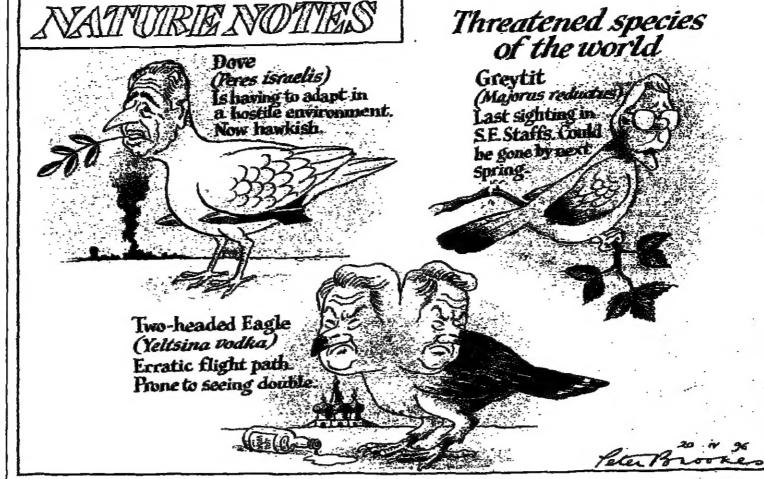
John Major gave tacit backing to Boris Yeltsin in his campaign to win the Russian presidential

Italian poll poser

Italy's election appears too close to call, with many voters saying they intended to abstain Page 15 network......Page 8

Ballerina looks askance at Look!

■ Look!, the Tories' breezy new tabloid designed to trumpet the Government's achievements, dismayed several people featured in it, including Darcy Bussell. Scunthorpe United football club and a businessman who said he could not vote Tory Page 1



OPINION

Long to relan: Tomorrow the Queen will be 70 and the nation will have rich cause to Page 21 Amber alert: Politically, this

is the right time for Britain to stand up for Hong Kong on scheme is a sensible redirection of resources Page 21

THE PAPERS

Surely Lebanon and Syria understand by now the cost of indulging Hezbollah. All sides must suspend the fighting - The New York Times

COLUMNS

able people will be gasping at the decision in the case of the rugby referee...

Giles Worsley:the millennium wheel proposed for the South Bank is portrayed as an altruistic gesture. But we will not be allowed to forget that it was British Airways that gave it to us Page 20

DBITUARIES Kalim Siddiqui, the Muslim Institute: Canon Peter Gillingham, Chaplain to the

LETTERS Labour policies; the 1963 premiership; destruction of art; Queen, 1952-84; Joy Newton. Israel; libraries at risk; BR Royal Ballet Page 23 Page 21

DM2-2858...

to 83.9 after a fall from

\$1.5292 to \$1.5173 but a rise

DM2.2560 to

... Page 28

BUSINESS SPORT

Cricket: Michael Atherton Power: Hanson's Eastern will resume the England cap-Group was poised to buy power stations worth more taincy with an optimism difficult to contemplate after the than El.3 billion Page 25 World Cup_ Markets: The FT-SE 100 in-Athletics: Britain's leading dex closed at 3857.1, up 36.4 points. Sterling's trademen should play a prominent weighted index rose from 83.6 part in the Flora London

States

Marathon, potentially the most absorbing race in its 16year history...Page 48 Football: The Football Asso-

ciation will not change England's multicoloured away goalkeeper's kit Page 48 Golf: Colin Montgomerie rediscovers form in the United

...Page 48

... Page 47

AHS

London's win: "To say that the lion's share of lottery handouts has been swiped by London would be to slander the communal generosity of big cats," Richard Morrison .Page 17

Following Fonda: Kevin Whately takes up the Henry Fonda role in Twelve Angry Men Page 19 Cellist's premieres; Mstislav Rostropovich is to premiere concertos by two British composers with the London Symphony

Orchestra.

Bachelor of Arts: Matthew Parris meets lan McKellen Pages 8-13 David Starkey: The deathof England Page 16-18

WEEKEND

Lost heritage: Treasures in churches Pages L



Property: Buying on a British island....... Page 8
Going out: Weekend

The weekly magazine for young Times readers Head girt: a female answer to Ryan Giggs Page 6

vision

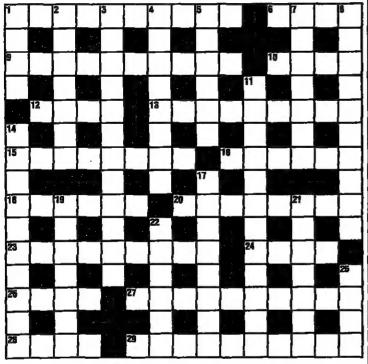


The Queen's 70th: Princess to Queen (tomortow.) BBC1, 4.10pm) and Happy Birthday Ma'am (tomor row, ITV, 6pm)

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,147

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .

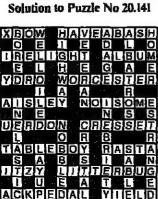


ACROSS

I Make good partners, getting highest mark in contest (10).

9 A goose, a goar, and an ass (5-5).

- 10 Neighbourhood north from stadium (4). 12 We may hear a lot from this social gathering (41.
- 13 Proper sign to follow in US elections (a). 15 Ungainfully occupied girl shut up
- 16 Ravel piece of jacket (6).
- 18 Layoff affected this part of Ireland 20 Travel document needed while
- away at seaside? (8). 23 Guilelessness shown previously, taking in church after pub (9).
- 24 Sailor disheartened lady? Well! 26 I remove from bed cut flower (4). Transfer of soldiers that's ending
- after short time (10). 28 Almost dark, but not quite (4).
- 29 How minister should behave in life, according to speech (10).



11 It helps to raise a climber, or an

American plant (6,0). 14 Station where I'm on duty (10). 17 Keep in job one sharing our SECTELS? (S). 19 Providing barrier for protection in

information on essentials (5,5).

I Damage to deal with in firm way

2 Hammer he has left in America

3 Where foreign president lives - or

Cambridgeshire bishop? (6.6).

4 Asleep after second form of ex-

5 Hard to believe one's a composer

7 Brave woman getting horse over

ercise (8).

fence, finally (7).

8 Ordinary members

dangerous sport? (7). 21 How to minimise friction in

boring work (3-4). 22 Girl lost in strange land (6).

25 Stop or postpone? (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20.146

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: S E Kidd, St Andrews, Fife: C Callander, Tonbridge, Kent: D Frise, Gienavon Park, Bristol: B Wilcock, Manafon, Weishpool: J E Frost, St Edmunds,

TIMES WEATHERCALL

N E England
Cumbrie & Lake District
S W Scotland
W Central Scotland
Edin S File/Lothan & Borde

AA BOADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information 24 hours a day, dfal 0336 401 followed by the Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Han M25 London Orbital only Northern instanci

HOUR	S OF DAR	KNESS
	70	DAY
	Sun rises: 5.54 am	Sun sets: 8.06 pm
	Moon sets	Moon rises
	10.58 am	7.27 am
First quarter A	pri 25	
Manchester 5		
	TOMO	RROW
	Sun nees. 5 52 am	Sun sets: 8.08 pm
	Mgan sets	Moon rises

andon 8 08 pm to 5 50 am Bristol 9.17 pm to 6 00 am Edinburgh 8.32 pm to 5.50 am Manchester 8 21 pm to 5.53 am HIGH TIDES

First Quarter April 25

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	H
Landan Bridge	301	72	3-24	72
Absociation	2:29	41	2.46	4.1
Avonmouth	8.37	134	8-50	132
Settast	0.24	3.5	12 47	3.5
Cardiff	633	124	8 49	12 1
Devenport	7.12	54	7:23	54
Dover	0 16	68	12.35	67
Dublin (N Wal5)	0.39	39	1:01	39
Falmouth	€ 3£	52	6 56	51
Greenock.	144	34	2 11	34
Herwich	0.55	40	1.20	39
Holyhead	11:42	5.5	11 57	54
Hadi (Albert D)	7:35	73	7.53	74
Mracombe	724	94	7.36	93
King's Lymn	7:36	68	7 55	68
Letto	3 52	55	4.15	5
Liverpool	0 18	93	12:41	9:
Loweston	10-52	23	11 11	2,4
Margate	1:22	48	143	47
Millard Haven	7:32	70	7.49	69
Newquay	6:21	69	6.38	6.8
Oban	6.56	39	7:34	39
Ропавлов	5 58	55	6:15	5
Pontand	B 15	21	9.23	21
Portsmout:	0:33	47	12.55	46
Shorcham	9 35	64	12 55	62
Southernation	Q		12 09	1.
Swansea	7:44	95	756	9.
Tées	4:54	53		53
Walton-on-Naze	0.53	42	1:17	41
Crown googng#1	77.33			

HIGHEST & LOWEST

FORECAST

☐ General: Northernmost England will have a cloudy day with patchy rain. Remaining parts of England and Wales will also be rather cloudy at times but with some warm brighter spells at times. Through the afternoon spens at times. Through the alternoon showers are likely to develop, however and more general rain will spread to the west later. Northern Ireland and much of Scotland will be cloudy with rain at times. Brighter weather with a few showers in the far north should slowly edge north.

Anglis, Central S & Central N England, Midlands, Channel Isles, N Wales, NW England: cloudy, brightness at times but showers developing, some heavy and possibly thundery. Warm. Wind south to south-easterly light to moderate. Max 18C. SW England, S Wales: rather cloudy but some brightness for a

time, later showers which will turn to more persistent rain later. Warm. Wind moderate south to southeasterly. Max 17C (63F).

☐ Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England: mostly cloudy with some patchy rain at first, becoming drier and brighter. Wind light to moderate southerly. Max 15C (59F).

Ci Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Mo-ray Fight, Augus, Northern Ireland: drier and brighter from the south. Wind light southerly. Max 14C. ☐ NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: mainly dry with bright spells. especially al first. Wind moderate south to southwesterly becoming light southeasterly. Max 12C (54F). ☐ Outlook rain in north will move south, with showers in the south.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

59 54 59 63 54 57 59 Folkestone Glassgow Guorneoy Hastings Hayling I. Home Bay Hove Hunstantor Illiacombe isto of Man Jersey Leeds Leevick Leuchars 56 801 10 001

ABROAD

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transfer northeast, high B will decline in situ; and high S will remain stationar

MODERATE

Sunny Sunny Cloudy. Ortzzle :

Lightning:

Temperatur (Celsius) Sea conditions

Total I

TORONTO WITH NIAGARA

BA 747 from Heathrow to Toronto on 23 May, 11 Aug, 30 Aug or 14 Sep. ● five nights at the deluxe Sheraton • city tour • harbour cruise Niagara with helicopter • Phantom of the Opera
 Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,999
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and Amsterdam • Eurostar from Brussels £599

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